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Page 14

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Joe McGinniss: Why soccer cost me a \$1m advance • How Arsenal put the lows into Highbury Plus latest sports news in the unique tabloid section

ੁੱਕਰ Rylance's Globe succeed?

Plus: The circus that shocked Edinburgh; Mikhail Baryshnikov

# Caught in a Russian death trap Calls for

**James** Meek reports on the new threat to fleeing Chechens

ory really had been knocked awry by the bombing. His head was bandaged and his face was splashed with spots of vivid green, a former Soviet substance for disinfecting wounds, where the shrapnel had hit the skin. But sometimes it is safer not to remember. Yes he had been there when the planes flew over. After that it was all a

For a young Chechen man of fighting age, a hospital bed in Urus Martan, 12 miles south of the capital Grozny, is no sure sanctuary, and not simply because of the flies and the persistent odour of death and excrement in its crumbling corridors, crowded with the injured from more than a week of fighting. The FSB, the Russian Secu-

rity Service, also prowls Chechen hospital corridors, look-ing for young men who might have taken up arms on the rebei side

But this man - who did not give his name — was not wounded in Grozny. He was injured in the village of Kom somolskaya, in a huge air raid launched by Russian forces on Wednesday after-noon after the truce agreed between rebels and federal troops was supposed to have

been in place. Eight people were killed in the raid by six aircraft and seven helicopters gunships, followed by artillery strikes. Six of the people killed were

from one family.

"They were blown into little pieces. It was a tetrible scene," said a neighbour, Apti Magomadov, aged 30, speaking in a ward of Urus Martan hospital filled with injured from the raid. "Mother, father, son and two little children. Rockets, and then dren. Rockets, and then

Komsomolskaya is not known as a rebel stronghold, and significant numbers of Russian troops are stationed nearby. Local people think the raid was a petty act of revenge by the Russia high command as the village used to be the home of Ruslan Galayev, one of the leaders of the separatist assault on Grozny. The bombing illustrates the

Russians' unco-ordinated approach to the Chechens. It adds evidence to the growing



Refugees crowding one of the main roads out of Grosny yesterday as they fied to safer areas despite the ceasefire

#### 'Mother, father, son and two little children. They were blown into pieces. It was a terrible scene'

difference between Chechen sees the republic as no more than an arena in which to gamble for its general

According to a French team from the Médecins Sans Fron-tières organisation, the pause in the fighting is no guarantee that people will be able to escape the city with their wounded.

"It can happen that there

conviction that the Russian are five, six, seven people in a by rebels, making them a tar-army has become blind to the car, trying to hide a wounded get for Russia's indiscrimi-difference between Chechen person if he's a man, the Rus-nate air attacks. sian checkpoint will not let him through," said Graziella Godain, one of the organisation's emergency workers in the north Caucasus. "We have many statements from people who have tried to bring dead relatives out of

The routes out of Grozny which do not pass Russian checkpoints are hardly less dangerous. They are also used

The city's two main hospitals, the Fourth and the Ninth, are not functioning. The Ninth was badly damaged after an extraordinary reverse hostage-taking opera-tion in which Russian special forces, trapped by rebels, seized wards and told the separatists they would kill the patients if they were not allowed to escape. This story was confirmed by refugees

rocketed by Russian helicop-ter gunships and virtually destroyed on the first day of the fighting. Tatiana Ibraginova, aged 43, who has just escaped from the city, said yesterday that an entire surgical team from the hospital and many patients still lay dead under heaps of rubble.

"It was hell what they did. We buried who we could in the yard," she said. "There



PHOTOGRAPH: VLADIMIR MASHATI)

were fighters in that district but why they shot at the hos-pital I do not know. I stay for two days in the hospital with the rats, without water. There was no one there to help people. They died alone."

# 60pc of university places confirmed in first day

More A level passes and higher grades lead to candidates succeeding with first-choice conditional college offers

John Carvel Education Editor

HE universities were making record progress yesterday in confirming undergraduate places for successful A level candidates. Within hours of the results being distributed at schools, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service said 170,000 definite offers had

This was about 60 per cent | seeking to fill them, the com-

of total places available and well ahead of last year's

results day performance.
An increase of nearly 2 per cent in the A level pass rate and improvements at most grades in most subjects helped more candidates achieve the standard required to translate conditional offers into firm places. With about 3,000 fewer Gov

ernment-funded university places available this year and more successful candidates

petition for the remaining | pentari for the remaining places is likely to be fierce. However, Ucas said there were still plenty on offer for candidates who were pre-pared to be flexible about choice of course and institution. When the clearing process to match students and places begins in earnest next week, there will be a wider

selection of courses available

han ever before.

Ucas has warned students considering a year out before starting their university stud-ies that they risk the intro-duction of top-up fees. Colleges say that unless the Government reverses spending cuts, next year's students could face registration fees of

decide to accept places now rather than risk waiting a year and facing an additional financial burden. "If they do, that could mean

more youngsters than last year chasing fewer clearing places. But at the moment we just don't know." The improvement in A level results caused embarrass-

ment for institutions which offered places on the assumption that some candidates would fail to make the required grades.
The University of Wales College of Medicine in Cardiff said its 170 places for medical

Tony Higgins, the Ucas subscribed by more than 10 Bosnian refugee chief executive said: "This per cent because too many yesterday, year, some candidates might candidates achieved its entry." She gained for standard of one A grade and two Bs.

The overcrowding could become even more serious if places were claimed by other candidates who had been given "insurance" offers at the Welsh college — to be taken up if they failed to get into their first preference

A college spokesman said it would honour all its offers, even if this meant reducing admissions and raising the entry standard for future

Amid a welter of reports of superlative performance by A "I hope to practise medi-level students, the case of a cine in Bosnia,"she said. students were already over-

Wigan's Henry Paul

Sport

yesterday.

She gained four A level passes to win a place at Oxford University — five years after arriving in this country with hardly any knowledge of English.

And Americanish and 18

Ana Ignjatovich, aged 18, was visiting relatives in Somerset with her parents and younger sister, Boyana, when civil war devastated their home city of Saravejo.

She learned yesterday that she had gained A-grade passes in chemistry, maths and biology and a C in English literature — and now he is to study medicine at Oriel College.

Comment and Letters 8

Obituaries 10

Friday Review

#### Inside

Britain Complaints from rail users rose by 15 per cent last year as the lack of investment and the network split-up hit services hard.

**World News** Sarajevo airportfinally re-opened to international traffic when a Boeing 727 from Istanbul touched down yesterday.

£300 or more.

Finance The High Court ruled that Lloyd's £3.2 billion rescue plan was legal, dismissing a claim that the proposal was unlawful.

signed a four-month. contract to play ... Rugby Union over the winter. He will get £2,000 a match. In Sport96.

Radio 12; TV 12

# justice body chief to quit

Duncan Campbell Crime Corresponde

AWYERS and politicians yesterday called for the resignation of the chairman of the Government's new body to investigate miscar riages of justice, following the revelation in the Guardian that he is a member of an elite order of Freemasons.

Crawford, who was appointed chairman of the Criminal Cases Review Authority by the Prime Minister earlier this year, is a Royal Arch Preemason has caused sur prise and dismay among law yers involved with alleged miscarriage of justice cases Politicians have urged Sir Frederick to consider his poition and to resign either as chairman or from the

Freemasons. Carolyn Taylor of Taylor Nichol, the lawyers who handle the cases of the three men protesting their inno-cence in the Carl Bridgewater believed Sir Frederick's position was untenable.

about the Freemasons) shows that many senior police officers are masons, so how can we be sure that he will be im-

She expressed concern about whether Sir Frederick would have a veto on cases submitted as suitable for

appeal. Solicitor Michael Fisher, who was involved in the Guildford Four and Winchester Three cases, said: "It's very disappointing. Many police officers are masons. It will lead to the inevitable be-

lief that cases will be dis-cussed behind the scenes." Hugh Callaghan, one of the Austin

Birmingham Six who was falsely imprisoned in 1975 for the Birmingham pub bomb-ings, said: "It's all wrong. People like that should not be on the commission."

Liberal Democrat Alan Beith called on Sir Frederick to renounce his membership of the Freemasons.

"There's no doubt that Sir Frederick Crawford will do the job with the utmost integ-rity," said Mr Beith. "But given the number of police of ficers, especially Metropolisons, and the obligations which the movement puts on them towards each other, it's bound to create some suspicion. I'd rather see the new chairman distance himself from that position

Chris Mullin, the Labour MP whose campaigning work helped to free the Birmingham Six, called on Sir Frederick to resign his £88,000-ayear part-time post as chairman of the commission. Turn to page 3, column 1



#### Sketch

# 7-minute culture



Dan Glaister

HANKFULLY the man in the bar wearing the yel-low and red hat with curved horns and dangling earflaps was not a contestant Judging a heat of Channel

4's talent contest, So You Think You're Funny, at the Gilded Balloon, Edinburgh, offers the possiblity of coming across a wealth of material perhaps even a comic genius — but silly costumes are one thing we can do without. And anyway, he might have stolen

Before the show begins we are led through the back of the building, up some stone stairs and into the backstage bar. The judges, five of us, go into a practice huddle as Karen Koren, the energy behind one of the busiest Fringe venues. explains the democratic voting procedure to us. Points, rankings, deductions, accumulators, it makes the scoring for Olympic gymnastics ap-pear simple. All that is miss-ing is artistic interpretation and posture.

The Olympics, as we were to find out, have become a key part of the comic lexicon at this year's festival. Any comedic tour de force worth its references to beach volleyball synchronised swimming and Britain's failure. Perhaps would-be comics are given notes on topics officially

leemed funny. In true Fringe style, we file into a stuffy, sticky, sweaty room to join the hundred or so people already awaiting the comedy virgins. The working definition of virginity for the purposes of So You Think ou're Funny is less than 12 months performing stand-up comedy and no appearances on television or radio. Comics are ordinary people, just like you or me. Well, that's the

Compere Lyn Ferguson is not an ordinary person, but she is a comic. In her own

Andrew Clements

Woolrich & Knussen

The Proms, Royal Albert Hall

T HAS been a busy summer

House of Crossed Desires, to a

libretto by Marina Warner,

Festival, and last night at the Proms, Nicholas Daniel intro-

duced Woolrich's Oboe Con-

phony Orchestra conducted

The opera was disappointing, chiefly perhaps because the weight of the text, and its

sheer number of words, gave Woolrich little opportu-

nity for musical expansion.

The new concerto is much more successful; it has a dis-tinctive feel, the textures are

crisp and vivid, and he has solved the problem of balanc-ing the relatively slender

sound of an oboe against a full orchestra in an ingenious and

convincing way. Woolrich's method of rein

forcing the solo line without losing the instrument's

special tang is to surround hum at the front of the plat-

form with a group of like-

sounding allies, three more oboes and a soprano saxo-

phone. They join in and rein-

responsibility for the oboe's

timbre in some of the orches-tral tuttis, giving the soloist

the chance of a brief respite

much needed in a work that

plays continuously for just

That solution allows Wool-

over 20 minutes.

force him in the concerto's climaxes and take total

certo, with the BBC Sym-

by Matthias Barnert.

received its first perfor-mances at the Cheltenham

for John Woolrich, Last month his opera In the

Oboe placed in

good company

Review

words she is "a big Scottish shag", the audience being encouraged to shout out the phrase "Shut up, you big Scot-ish shag" should she pause in her delivery. There are few pauses as we rattle through seven comedians each doing seven minutes. Seven-minute culture. For some, it proves a

little too long, for one or two. not long enough. The comedy establishment could learn from the format. Edinburgh has hundreds of comics, the good, the bad and the indifferent, all performing 50-minute solo shows. Fifty minutes would be a challenge to the greatest of comics. The format, one suspects, is led by economics, a lengthy show ustifying ticket prices of £5

and upwards. Stand-up comedy, in these apolitical times, relies on ob-servation and a checklist of popular culture. Of the seven contestants, five mention the jokes, two have Coronation Street in their act, and one manages the X Files, Blind Date, body piercing, and an anti-Scottish joke all in the space of four minutes.

The styles vary. Nervous non-sequiturs, practised non-chalance, clumsy physical comedy, smoothle charm, the manic stare, they all make an appearance. The clothing, too, plunders the comedy wardrobe from the T-shirt and eans just wandered in from the bar look to the sharp-

The show over, the judges file out to huddle. "This is a democratic process," pro-claims Karen, in the fashion of all the best dictators.

There are three clear frontrunners, but only one can go through. Although none has died, one or two might per-haps have been put out of their misery. We begin to hag-gle, whispering so that the competitors cannot hear. After lengthy deliberation — four minutes, after all there is an audience waiting — a ma-jority verdict is reached. The winner did Star Trek

but not the Olympics. A man with a big head, he had, he told us, been a baby with a big head. And big pointy ears. It was inspired lunacy from Pat-rick McDonnell, the maniscal than good material and good delivery to be a comedian. It helps to be a little mad.

rich to create a much larger canvas for his works than one

might expect: oboe concertos conventionally are small-scale

and light-textured, yet some of

the gestures here are grand and imposing, spanning the extremes of the orchestra

from deep bass pedals to high woodwind flourishes, while

others have an intimacy that seems to lay hare the work's

emotional core.
These reflective passages,

often cut short by the intru-sions of the full orchestra, al-

ternate with the glowering episodes in which a huge

range of exotic percussion is

ween these outbursts and the

still, small voice of the oboe, more beautifully wrought by

Daniel than the composer could have dared hope, seem

concerto, this one nearly new Barry Tuckwell first played

Oliver Knussen's Horn Con-certo in Japan in 1994; he

brought it to the Aldeburgh Festival last year, and made

his farewell appearance in London by introducing it

here. On every encounter the

piece seems more and more impressive, teeming with in-

vention, faultlessly written

for the horn, with scoring that is a delight in itself. In what

was one of the most memora-

ble concerts of the season so

far - Tuckwell also played

bussy's Nocturnes and Sibe-

lius's Seventh Symphony — it

glittered like a precious stone.

This review appeared in

later editions yesterday.

Mozart's Third Horn Concerto and Salonen conducted

eloquent accounts of De-

ouching and original. The prom, given by the Phil-harmonia under Esa-Pekka Salonen, included another

unleashed. The contrast be-

Relaunch of image along with the offer of tax cuts gives the Republican contender a fighting chance

# Inspired lunacy in New Dole starts to pay of

Martin Walker in San Diego

Kemp leave their almost triumphant Republican convention today with President Clinton's poll lead clawed back to 10 points, giving their campaign a sporting Bob Dole to an American pub-chance of a victory in the November election.

vember election.

Offering a 15 per cent tax cut to boost a sluggish economy as the centrepiece of his acceptance speech last night, Mr Dole is banking on a programme of generous econom-

him, pin their hopes on a campaign which presents better man for a better America".

After a tightly-scripted four days which re-united the party, the Republicans pre-sented, at the age of 73, a new Bob Dole to an American puba second look at him. The saturnine Washington insider of his Senate days has been re-launched as a man of private charity and public service, "a quiet hero, to answer his country's call again".

But the new Bob Dole came

saults, which are intensely vulnerable to a counter-attack by Mr Clinton. Mr Dole, the deficit hawk for 15 years, has turned his back on fiscal rectitude to embrace the supply-side theories that 15 per cent tax cuts will still permit a bal-Mr Clinton's advertise-

senators saying they will have to raid the Medicare budget to pay for the tax cuts, began yesterday on Califor-nian television.

ments, quoting Republican

Mr Kemp, hitherto the out-

His party, convinced that Mr | at the price of an improbable | of the poor and downtrodden, | "ended welfare as we know Clinton's flaws will confound | series of ideological somer- | has swallowed the party's | if", slashed the budget deficit anti-affirmative action poli-cies, weakening his credibil-The stirring convention ity in those parts of the elec-

torate only he could reach. Mr Kemp yesterday formally signed on to the Republican insistence that children of il-legal immigrants be hauled out of the public schools, and that all affirmative action programmes for blacks and that all affirmative action programmes for blacks and other minorities be scrapped.
This promises to be a campaign of policy reversals, with Mr Clinton campaigning proudly on an essentially Republican record, having

it", slashed the budget deficit to its lowest in 15 years, and put an extra 100,000 police on

speech of the retired general Colin Powell, with its insistence on "compassion" and support for abortion rights and affirmative action, could have been delivered by Mr Clinton. The Republican

The Republican problem is that they are still stuck with a Christian Coalition manifesto, which Ralph Reed, the coalition's executive director, said yesterday was "the platform we will fight on". The platform promises to outlaw abortion and prosecute doctors who perform them.

The Dole campaign hopes that his impressive wife Elizabeth will be their secret weapon to win back women offended by the Republican policy on abortion, and fears for Medicare.

Kiss of life, page 6; Peter



English Heritage and the National Trust, which together own Stonehenge and surrounding land, favour a tunnel taking the road under the site — PHOTOGRAPH: CHARLOTTE FULLER BOLEDIES

# Fears grow over Stonehenge road choice

Archaeologists dismayed at speculation ministers will opt for cheapest but most environmentally sensitive route through heritage site. **Maev Kennedy** reports

HE Government is i site at up to 2200 millio understood to be on the point of choosing the cheapest but most environmentally explosive op-tion for upgrading the road through the Stonehenge

world heritage site.
The so called "grey route",
bitterly opposed by archaeologists, land owners and all the area's local authorities. would carve a new road through virgin countryside of prime archaeological and landscape value, south of the present route of the A303 in Wiltshire.

The current road narrows to a two lane bottleneck where it passes within 100 yards of the stones.

A long, tunnel along the

present route under the en-tire site, the solution backed by English Heritage and the National Trust, which together own the stones and 1.500 surrounding acres, has been ruled out on cost

The Highways Agency originally costed the southern route at £22 million, a part-tunnelled northern route at £43 million, and the

A Department of Transport spokeswoman confirmed yesterday that an announcemen is expected within the next fortnight, but said it was incorrect that the grey route had already been chosen. "It's with the ministers, they are making the decisions now, but the details will have to wait for the announce

she said. Archaeologists and landowners yesterday reacted with rage. Philip Dixon, the president

of the Council for British Archaeology, said: "It would be a deplorable betrayal of commitments which the Government has made to the rest of the world, and of principles of sustainable conservation which it urges on everyone

else."
Geoffrey Wainwright, chief archaeologist of English Heritage, said: "I've been hearing the tom-toms beating on this one — we would be bitterly disappointed."

Professor Martin Biddle, of Oxford University, who was the archaeological consultant must be examined seriously, for the local residents fight-but this one has so many under the ing the route, said: "This is disadvantages they heavily

deplorable betrayal of commitments which the Government has made to the rest of the world, and of principles of sustainable conservation'

outweigh any possible gain."
He queried the Highways
Agency costing of the route.

"No proper archaeological assesment of this route has

ernment did with the M3 at Winchaster — tried to waltz away from the problems as they perceived them, and cre-ated a disaster. This is the been done, and at the moment worst possible of all the

Professor Tim Champion, of Southampton University, president of the Prehistoric Society, said the southern route had many known im-portant archaeological fea-tures including Bronze Age burial mounds contemporary with the stones, and earth-

more presumed to exist. "Any proposal to remove the road from the immedi-ately vicinity of the stones 'It would be a A spokeswoman for the National Trust said they

would be astonished if the route, much of which runs through inalienable land belonging to the Trust, were out by the Government nearly two years ago, when the then Transport Minister, Steve

Norris, called it a "non-starter". It was revived for consideration last winter when a planning conference, organised by the Highways Agency, was held in Salisbury to consider all the options.

The conference report, compiled by an independent chairman, found the grey route unacceptable, and said that while the cost of the long tunnel was far beyond the been done, and at the moment tunnel was far beyond the mittee as you could not put a price roads budget, the Governdisgrace".

on the archaeology of the | ment, English Heritage and the National Trust should investigate ways to fund the

Getting rid of the present A303, and the narrow road to the north which nudges the heel stone of the circle, is the key to the ambitious joint English Heritage to create a vast unfenced parkland set-ting for Stonehenge, and

a mile away.

They hope to attract Millennium lottery funding for the

project. Stonehenge already attracts more than 700.000 visitors a year, which would be ex-pected to double. The present dismal concrete underpass to the stones, was denounced by a parliamentary select com-"a national

#### Pope in new health scare

OPE John Paul was taken to a small country hospital near Rome late on Wednesday for what were intended to be secret tests, it

can statement said the tests tion to the abdominal surgery in 1992", when a large tumour was removed from his colon. The Vatican's statement

The odd circumstances surrounding the Pope's visit to hospital are bound to reignite speculation that he is suffer-

It came the day after he had



The Pope: Illnesses ascribed

cided, because of a "slight indisposition which struck John Paul II on Tuesday", to bring forward the Pope's regular tests. These are to check for a recurrence or secondary spread of the tumour ex-

tracted four years ago.
It was the first time a Vatican spokesman had made a direct connection between the tumour and one of the Pope's recent "indispositions". Last December, the pontiff cut short his Christmas greet-

just over an hour at the Regina Apostolorum Hospital in Albano on Wednesday. The Vatican has always maintained that the tumour had been completely removed. A biopsy later showed it was becoming malignant. News of the hospital visit was leaked to

by a sudden fever. Both ill-nesses were subsequently as-cribed to influenza. He spent

the Rome newspaper, Il Mes-saggero. The Vatican made no prior announcement. Il Messaggero said hosnital staff who came into contact with the Pope during his brief stay had been asked to keep it a secret. It was also timed to attract minimal publicity in

the event of its being The Pope, his secretary and his personal physician were driven to the hospital in a Lancia Thema limousine at 7pm on the evening before a national public holiday. No

newspapers will be published in Italy until tomorrow. The Pope's check-ups are not publicised, but all those which have been reported have taken place at Rome's Gemelli hospital where he is normally treated and where his records are kept. The Regina Apostolorum is run by nuns a few miles from Castel

it had been chosen for

NO COMMISSION CHARGE THIS SATURDAY WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR POUNDS INTO FRENCH FRANCS

So with no commission and a great exchange rate, you'll get more Francs for your pounds Hurry down to your local Thomas Cook High Street shop or Airport Bureau this Saturday!



Kurd TV station back on air after winning satellite deal government and a shortage of satellite capacity in Europe. Turkey has repeatedly asked HE London-based Kurdish Downing Street to close the satellite television station channel, saying it is a propa-MED TV, which was forced off

air in July amid claims of political interference, resumes broadcasting to Europe and the Middle East today. The station lost its place on the European Eutelsat after

lobbying by the Turkish

ganda front for the separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK). In the past Polish Portuguese and French companies have provided MED space on Eutelsat. Now MED TV has won a new contract on the American-owned Intelsat. emerged yesterday. The pontiff, aged 76, later

made a public appearance at his summer residence to lead prayers and read greetings for nearly 25 minutes. A Vati-"did not show anything noteworthy, particularly in relasaid he had undergone a CAT (Computerised Axial Tomog-

Dr Iain Watt of the Royal College of Radiologists said. "In this instance, the most likely use of a CAT scan would be to look at the liver or secondary spread."

failed to celebrate morning mass in his summer resi-dence at Castelgandolfo in the hills south east of Rome. Fr Ciro Benedettini, deputy di-rector of the Vatican press popal apartments because of it had been chosen office, said it had been de-nausea. In March, he was hit "reasons of convenience"

'If you can afford to live here you really cannot moan about the state of Britain'



d choic



Glenda Jackson takes Labour's campaign to Alan Turney and Graham Lee, above, and other Britons, below left, in Benidorm

#### Sunshine, bingo and New Labour as Glenda woos Costa trippers

Alex Duval Smith in Benidorm

HY on earth, won-dered Nuno Sousa, was the famous Britpromoting McDonald's on a

also been given a yellow and red paper cap marked "Same old Tories, Same old lies".

But she had worked out that "Filya," said Mrs Loughran, it was the Labour Party: "She is advertising the Partido

The Portuguese couple were not alone in being con-fused, as Labour yesterday brought its cape, balloons and sticks of rock to the swelter-ing Costa Blanca. "Are you on holiday, too?"

sked Peter Brooks from Birmingham, of the shadow transport secretary. Ms Jack-son, here for the afternoon, looked overdressed and anae-mic in the sea of frying flesh. She moved on through the burning sand searching, per-haps, for a Briton unwittingly shading beneath a Jeffrey Archer novel. Instead, she

ran's beach towel.
"Hiya," said Mrs Loughran, a school dinner attendant on holiday with her joiner husband lan, and their three children. Ms Jackson launched into Birkenhead mode. "I was born just around the corner from where you live," said Ms Jackson, adding: "Is it all right to give the children some sticks of rock?"

Mrs Loughran was delighted. "We vote Labour anyway, but I think it is good of her to come on to the beach."

A walkabout on Benidorm beach, among a potential electorate with hardly anything on, is probably not the best platform for talking policy. But bare-chested John Sage, wearing pink shorts, was determined to have his say.

"Why don't you make a

"Why don't you make a socialist out of Tony Blair?" asked the 61-year-old former diesel engine supervisor. "I was made redundant because of British Rail privatisation and Mr Blair looks a traitor to me. I've been a life-long socialist..."

"That makes two of us," said Ms Jackson, moving on. If was a fast-paced day, taking in the unveiling, on wasteland outside Alicante, of a Labour poster declaring 'No wonder you need a break" (from Tory lies).

part of Labour's £500,000 response to the Conservatives'
"New danger" campaign.
Ms Jackson felt it made per-

fect sense to come to Spain with four sidekicks on £450 air tickets. "We're aiming both at holidaymakers and residents, they are all concerned about education and the erosion of the health service," she said. But Brian Morsley, aged 62, Labour supporters' group for the area and owner of two

dogs, would have liked a pledge from Ms Jackson to reform the quarantine laws. The burning issues for the estimated 25,000 Britons living on the Spanish Mediterranean coast are clearly different from those of holidaymakers. A retired ex-

pat at the Los Amigos weekly bingo, Eddie Pressick, said: "If you can afford to live here you really cannot complain about the state of Britain." He The poster — one of 10 was a lifelong Labour supposted in Ibiza, Malaga, Barcelona, Valencia, Majorca, "Glenda Jackson's visit will Minorca and the Algarve — is | not make any difference."

# Rail service complaints at new high

Owen Bowcott

RAGMENTATION of the privatised railway network and the lack of long-term invest. ment are generating a record level of passenger complaints

level of passenger complaints, the main watchdog body warned yesterday.

Problems on the West Coast main line — which runs from London to Glasgow and was the scene of last week's Watford crash — are becoming particularly severe, accoording to the Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee.

The committee's report reflects the anger felt by many travellers during the year when the network passed into private ownership.

The number of complaints

received during 1995/6 was at a record 11,640, a rise of nearly 15 per cent over the previous year. It was the 13th consecutive year in which there had been an increase.

The main concerns related to punctuality, refunds, inad-equate information and high fares. Criticisms about overcrowding nearly doubled. But fewer complained about can-cellations and timetables. British Rail's integrated

network has been progres-sively broken up into smaller companies since the passing of the Railways Act 1993. In February 1996 the first two companies were transferred to private sector control.

The new (privatised) players have got to get their act together as there is too much on the railways that is not good enough," the committee chairman, David Bertram, said yesterday. "There is vir-tually no investment and for passengers it's been another year of waiting — waiting for promises to be turned into

eal action. "The jury is still out on pri-vatisation and likely to remain out for some time. We have seen some service im-provements — mainly small ones which hopefully will lead to major ones." Many services have been

adversely affected, he added, because "too many senior [management] eyes have been taken off the ball of delivering commitments. It is also disappointing that there has been no requirement to introduce new trains on some n vatised lines." Of the West Coast main work to improve service stan-line, he was highly critical, dards if it forms the next

On train facilities **30 78%** up 48% Telephone enquiries up 33% **Punctuality** 

to show alarming signs of de terioration in the absence of a start to the major renewal programme. The continuing lack of investment remained unaddressed for another year. "It is particularly disappointing that such a key route is still without a clear plan." The same line recorded a

sharp fall in punctuality over the year from 89.5 per cent of its services to 81.7 per cent.

Overall, in the 59 route monitored, 26 delivered better punctuality while 23 recorded worse timekeeping results. One of the worst was the Ipswich-Felixstowe line which operated only 77 per cent of its trains on time.

But transport minister John Bowis seized on what he saw as the more positive aspects of the report as a vindication of the Government's dustry to the private sector.

"In the period the report covers, the vast majority of services were still run by British Rail. That situation is now changing fast. As more and more of the passenger train companies pass into private hands I expect the quality of service to continue to

Glenda Jackson, the shadow transport minister, said, before leaving for Spain, yesterday: "This is a clear thumbs down for railway privatisation. The report paints a depressing picture of soar-ing complaints, higher costs

and plummeting investments, "For John Bowis to claim that an increase in complaints represents an endorsement of railway privatisation The Labour Party has said it will imb

tions on the franchised net-

# 'Poor' abortion woman is wealthy

Hospital admits misleading public in row over 'selective culling' of twin in womb

Sarah Boseley

ONDON'S most famous maternity hospital admitted yesterday that it issued misleading information when it said the woman who had one of her healthy twin foetuses terminated was an impoverished single

It emerged yesterday that the woman treated at Queen Charlotte's Hospital in west London was a well-paid pro-fessional, married to a company director.

The revelation provoked

Winterton called "selective culling" in the womb.

The embattled hospital,

which said it issued misleading information to protect the identity of the patient, ob-tained an injunction to prevent newspapers naming or approaching the woman who had been traced by a tabloid newspaper. She was quoted as saying. "I am married and we are certainly not impover-ished — far from it." Professor Phillip Bennett, a

gynaecologist at Queen Char-lotte's, inadvertently started the storm a fortnight ago when he spoke of the operanew calls from an outraged tion as one of the most diffi-anti-abortion lobby for cult ethical issues he had changes in the legislation to prevent what Tory MP Ann scribed his patient as a 28-

year-old single mother with one child who could not af-ford to look after two more. Anti-abortion groups raised some £80,000 to help her before it emerged that the termi-

nation had taken place. Yesterday, the story changed Mr Bennett had altered many details of the case to protect the woman's identity, a spokesman for the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust said. "I think I can admit the format the forma mit to regret that, for very good reasons as we see it, we had to do that. We felt that our duty to the patient outweighed any duty of public disclosure," said Jonathan

Street The real reason for the ter mination was the risk to the mother smental health. "Had

Queen Charlotte's is to hold an inquiry into the way it handled the international

Mrs Winterton, MP for Congleton, said the hospital had been "lacking in integ-rity". She had written twice to the Health Secretary, asking for an inquiry. "The basic point remains the same— that people feel concern that a healthy twin can be killed in the womb for social reasons. I believe that amongst the gen-eral public there is a mood for

Elizabeth Peacock, Conservative MP for Batley and Spen, said: "The 1967 Abortion Act was not meant to allow people to have de-signer families. That's obvi-ously what it's being used for. And, also, it appears that the Abortion Act is almost being used as a form of afterthought contraception."

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#### Justice commission chief urged to quit over link to masons

continued from page 1 Mullin described the appointment as "doft".

John Hamill, spokesman for the United Grand Lodge of England, confirmed that Sir Frederick was an active member of the Freemasons but his duty to the law is paraunder any loyalty vows to assist each other. "A Freemason's prime duty is to the law and his professional should see that the law takes responsibilities."

Mr Hamill added: "If he is | that person through a diffiwhich is due to start operating within the next year. Mr Mullin described the appoint
in a situation where there might even appear to an outsider to be conflict, he will thority said it. declare his interest and then

denied that Freemasons were mount. Freemason who has been breaking the law then he

The Police Complaints Authority said it could not com-ment on Sir Frederick's position, but said it had urge police officers to declare membership of the Freemasons. No members of the PCA were Freemasons, said a

Sir Frederick, who retires this year as vice-chancellor of Aston University, is in France on holiday and units course. He might then help available for comment.



Sir Frederick: Veto fear



The mystique surrounding the great lost guitar player stems partly from the fact that Green's sad saga of hallucinogenic drugs, mental illness and the blues reads like an obituary of sixties rock music.

Review page 6

Africa before Charles has told me his decision." Mrs Stopford said: "I have

since his return to South Af-

rica, and he is desperately un-happy. I have had letters from

langu, confirmed he had said

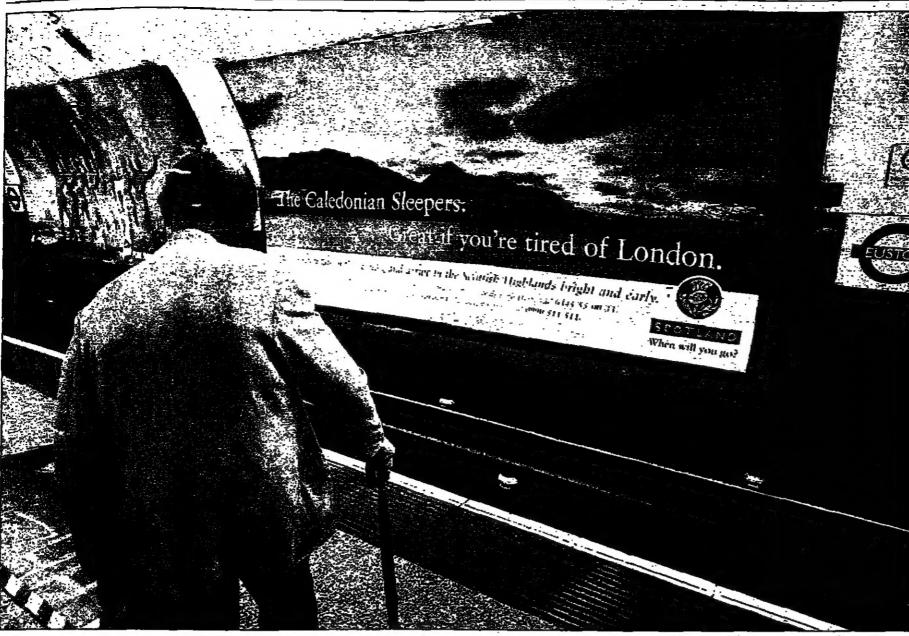
suiso was in return to tour-don. "He told me that he did not have any exact date when Siftso would depart, but that he was definitely going back,"

"He wants to send him ba to further his education, but he doesn't want Mrs Stopford

Mrs Stopford said she understood Mr Mahlangu would almost certainly set conditions for Sifiso's return,

Mrs Stopford, who em-ployed Sifiso's parents, had cared for the boy since he was 18 months old. The Afrikaans speaking widow brought him to Britain in March 1992

when she moved to Maida Vale in north London and took British citizenship.



# Highland lure leaves London breathless

Tourist board peeved as capital is targeted by Scots counterpart, writes Jeanette Page

N a grey morning in London, with Canary Wharf and St Paul's Cathedral peeking through the haze, the Scottish Tourist Board unveiled a £1% million campaign to attract visitors

As commuters made their way home last night by Tube or rall, they were able to view a poster showing a romantic Highland scene, with the words: "Leaves you breathless. Rather like the air in London.'

On another poster, of a train racing through the Edinburgh festival countryside: "The Caledonian Sleepers. Great if you're tired of London."

Commuters might have been pressed to find any-thing with which to disagree. The same could not be said for the London Tourist Board.

Its managing director, Paul Hopper, said that it was unfortunate the advertising seemed couched in

competitive terms. "We believe the attractions London has to offer the visitor are entirely dif-

ferent from those in

#### North v South

Scotland:

□ Deep fried pickled eggs and Mars Bars Appalling standard of Scottish goalkeeping

☐ The royal family (August only) □ Midges

☐ The English at the

Five bad things about London

☐ Australian bar staff ☐ The drinking hours

☐ The royal family

□ Traffic □ Pollution

100 theatres, 125 cinemas and 11,000 pubs, clubs and restaurants, you will have to come to London. However, if a quiet sunset over

are after, Scotland's the place."

Graham Birse of the Scot-tish board denied that the London or Londoners, "It's a humorous attempt to highlight pretty obvious and fundamental environ-mental differences. We are trying to persuade people from the South-east to visit Scotland to recharge their

London was one of the most creative media market places in the world, said Mr Birse, so to stand out, a campaign had to have an

impact.
He added that the campaign was good for the United Kingdom. The board was not trying to entice overseas visitors away attract Southerners who would otherwise take autumn breaks in France

or Belgium.
Derek Reid, the chief executive of the Scottish board, said that the London board was being over-sensitive: "It should play to London's strengths and leave little old Scotland alone."

The charge of over-sensi-tivity was denied by a spokeswoman for the Lon-don board, Louise Wood. "We should be working together, rather than tak-"If you want a choice of the mountains is what you ing a pop at each other."



Capital attraction . . . Enjoying a London rave night in Brixton PHOTOGRAPH ANDY BLACKHORE

# Tug-of-love Zulu boy may return

boy at the centre of a fug-of-love adoption case which reached the House of Lords was yes-terday reported to be about to return from South Africa to A reporter on the Johannes-burg Star, Priscilla Singh, who interviewed Mr Mah-

Sifiso Mahlangu flew back to Johannesburg in May after to Johannesburg in May after attempts by his parents former employer, Salome Stopford, aged 50, now based in Lendon, to adopt him falled. According to reports from South Africa yesterday, the boy's father, Charles Mahlangu, has decided to allow him to go back to Mrs Stopford after Siffso became misford after Sifiso became mis-erable in his township home.

Mrs Stopford said she was "very encouraged" by the news, but that Mr Mahlangu had not told her his plans. He has apparently gone on TV and radio in South Africa

I am not going to get my hopes up too high . . The big question is when? He is not all. I have been trying constantly to get in contact by phone since Tuesday, but he

no idea that things were lead-

"I said: 'Ultimately, "I am ready to pack my bags and fly out to pick Sifiso

The natural parents agreed to let him go for the good of his education, on condition they would be allowed to visit his South African links. The Mahlangus started legal moves to have their son returned after discovering in launched a bid to adopt him

High Court Court of Appeal and House of Lords before up at a moment's notice, but I don't want to appear to be harassing or pressurising the family by going out to South

#### Cats may be main carriers of food poison super-bug

PET cats could be helping to spread a super-bug of the organism which is now one of the most common causes of food poisoning, pub-

lic health doctors warn today.

A type of salmonella called ing in England and Wales. Reported cases have risen from 259 to 3,837 since 1990. The researchers, from the Public Health Laboratory Service, say of particular con-cern is the rise of a strain which in most cases is resistant to five types of antibiotic, and can be resistant to seven. The doctors say in the Lancet that an increasing number of cats are being discovered with the resistant strain of people handling cats must be

the bug.

"The finding that cats are their hands before consuming

sible for food poisoning in human beings raises the question as to whether cats play a pert in the spread of the strain." The source of infection in

cats may be from eating con-taminated human food, or from rodents, but DT104 can also be found in cattle, sheep. DT104 is the second most pigs and poultry. "Therefore common cause of food poison it is important that cats are not fed raw or undercooked mest," say the researchers. could pass the infection to humans through their litter trays, on their paws to work-

surfaces, or even through their mouths when grooming "It is clearly an undesirable practice to allow cats free ac-

# HRT 'can help to cut risk of Alzheimer's'

Chris Mihili Medical Corr

OMEN who take hormone replacement therapy may be reducing their risk of Alzheimer's disease, researchers say today.
Those using HRT, especially for a number of years,

had a reduced chance of developing the dementia illness. and if it did develop, it struck at a later age, say doctors from New York. Ming-Xin Tang and colleagues from Columbia Uni-versity looked at 1,124 elderly

women, with an average age of 74, of whom 156 were taking oestrogen. The average length of use was seven years. The researchers, reporting their findings in the Lancet. say that among the non-users. 16.3 per cent developed Alz-



taking HRT the figure was | per cent chance of developing

In terms of the annual inci-dence rate, the researchers

Criminals win compensation for abuse in

childhood after appeal to injuries board



Prominent HRT users Lady Thatcher and Joan Collins

only 5.8 per cent. 16.3 per cent developed Alzestimate that among those suggest that a history of oestwomen and men, could heimer's, but amongthose taking HRT there was a 2.7 trogen use during the post against mental decline.

Alzheimer's, compared to 8.4 per cent in non-users.
They say: 'These results menopausal period signifi-cantly delays the onset of Alz-heimer's disease and lowers the risk of the disease. Our does not prevent Alzheimer's delay the onset of the

The doctors suggest that oestrogen might be protective by affecting some of the brain messenger chemicals that are known to be important in the development of Alzheimer's. They point out that there have been attempts in the past to use cestrogen as a treatment for Alzheimer's, and that further studies are ded into the protective effects of HRT.

Last month at an international psychiatric conference in London, Declan Murphy said there was growing evi-dence that oastrogen, in both women and men, could guard

Dr Murphy, of the Institute of Psychiatry, London, said that a pilot study involving 100 women had already been launched to see if HRT could affect brain ageing, and it was possible that testosterone replacement therapy for men could have a similar effect.

Hormone replacement therapy was orginally developed to help women going through the menopause. However, it is now known that HRT can protect against the thin bone discounts. ease osteoporosis, as well as heart disease gad strokes. There is still controversy over whether HRT might in-

crease the risk of breast cancer, and some women complain of nausea, water retention and other problems while taking the horm Famous users of HRT in-

clude Baroness Thatcher, Teresa Gorman MP, and the actresses Joen Collins and Kate O'Mara.

haviour and crime.

ally and physically abused in childhood have won their appeal against the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board's refusal of compensa-tion because of their later criminal activities. All five were granted awards of up to £25,000 by the

board chairman, Lord Car-

David Palilster

The board's decision is likely to have an impact on hundreds of other cases. Lord Carlisle accepted the opinion of a psychologist that the abuse the men had received social services made it difficult for them to form stable relationships in later life leading to drug and alcohol dependancy, anti-social be-It is the normal practice of

the board not to compensate the victims of crime when they are themselves Three of the men, who had been convicted of crimes like burglary, theft and shoplift-ing in the 1980s, were given full awards of between \$7,500 and \$20,000.

A fourth who had committed several alcohol-related of-fences and the fifth who had convictions for arson and robreduced by 50 per cent. Lord Carlisle said that they had suffered "appalling abuse" and despite their record they should have at least a reduced

Their solicitor, Peter Garsden, welcomed the decision but said he had reservations. The board made it clear that it was making a departure from its normal practice and acted leniently. But as the offences all took place after the abuse, I believe that their criminal records should have been invested."

been ignored." Mr Garsden is also bringing a civil action on behalf of 110 men who claim to have been abused in four homes in the bery were awarded £25,000 North-west. A Righ Court and £20,000 respectively, both writ is to be issued shortly.

#### Earl fined over gun by bedside says his wife felt more secure

THE Earl of Cardigan was was there. It was not kept fined £200 yesterday for with ammunition." two firearms offences.

The 43-year-old earl admit-ted failing to keep a weapon in a secure place at his home in Savernake Forest, near Mariborough, Wiltshire. He also admitted failing to report the loss of another

The earl told magistrates at Devizes in Wiltshire that the first weapon was kept in a locked cupboard. But on his advice, his wife Rosamond, aged 46, removed the weapon from its cupboard and placed it by her bedside table. She was alone in the house which was a mile from other dwellings, he explained. "It

The earl said the other weapon was an antique which could not be fired as there was no firing pin. It had belonged to his great-grandfather and he had no ammuni tion for it.

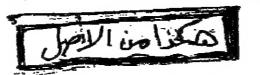
The earl said: "It is of no great value. It is not a threat to the world at large. I did not report it as I was unaware it had gone. This is not a case of behaving recklessly." The earl, who appeared under his full name of David

Michael Brudenell-Bruce. was fined £100 on each offence and ordered to pay £30 costs. An allegation concerning

NO COMMISSION CHARGE THIS SATURDAY WHEN YOU CHANGE YOUR POUNDS INTO FRENCH FRANCS

So with no commission and a great exchange rate, you'll get more Francs for your pounds. Hurry down to your local Thomas Cook High Street shop or Airport Bureau this Saturday!





# 'Sharp rise' in use of drink and drugs by under-17s

Virtually all youths in nationwide survey had consumed alcohol and half had smoked cannabis

session was seven units for girls and nine for boys.

The researchers believe the pupils answered truthfully, rather than trying to show off, as they included a question about a properict days.

EARLY half of all 15-and 16-year-olds have tried illegal drugs, virtually all have consumed alcohol, and one in three are smokers, a one in three are smakers, a large-scale survey reveals today. The study, one of the biggest ever carried out among teenagers in the United Kingdom, concludes that there has been a sharp rise in the number of young people experimenting with all types of drugs since 1989.

The researchers say there are clear links between drug use and school performance, with those who smoked, drank or took illegal drugs doing less well academically.

Patrick Miller and Martin

doing less well academically.

Patrick Miller and Martin
Plant, of the alcohol and health research group at Edinburgh University, looked at 7,722 pupils aged 15 and 16 they had been intoxicated at the state schools and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state schools and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state schools and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state school and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state school and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state school and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state school and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state school and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state school and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state school and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state school and 15 they had been intoxicated at the state school and the school and the state school and the state school and the schoo

To Proceed to Carner

Playing with drugs

Percentages of 15 and 16 year olds who reported ever using

have at some time used illicit drugs, mainly cannabis. Al-most all the pupils — 94 per cent — had consumed alcohol. and 36 per cent had smoked cigarettes in the month prior

cigarettes in the month prior to the survey.

A detailed breakdown of the illicit drug use shows that 38 per cent of the girls and 43 per cent of the boys had tried cannabis, with significantly higher levels reported in Scotland, where 60 per cent of boys and 47 per cent of girls said they had used it.

A fifth of the pupils, of both sexes, had used glues and solvents, and 12 per cent of girls and 17 per cent of boys had tried LSD or other halfucinogens.

Seven per cent of girls and 9 per cent of boys had used ec-

at 60 state schools and 10 independent schools in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The research, published in the British Medical Journal, cent of the boys. The average says 42 per cent of the pupils intake on the last drinking

age drinking, say researchers from Glasgow University. Neil McKeganey and col-leagues looked at 758 pupils aged 12 to 15 in Dundee and say 87 per cent used white ciders, with an alcohol level

tion about a non-existent drug and virtually no-one claimed Dr Millar and Professor

Plant state: "There were clear relations between school per-formace and both licit and illict drug use."

They add: "This survey is one of the most detailed of its

to have used it.

type to have been conducted in the United Kingdom and covers the whole country.

"Among girls, but not boys, cigarette smoking may have increased. However, for all

types of drug experimenta-tion there seems to have been a large rise since 1989."

Children aged 11 and 12 who are the most aware of cigarette advertising are the ones most likely to take up smoking, say researchers from the Cancer Research Campaign's child studies

group at Manchester University. They looked at 1,450 pupils and report in the British Medical Journal that cigarette ad-vertising does increase children's awarness of hrands and encourages them to take up the habit, despite the repeated denials of the tobacco industry.

"Awareness of certain brands of cigaratte area linked."

brands of cigarette was linked to an increased risk of smoking in 11- to 13-year-olds, espe-cially girls. Awareness of the most advertised brands was a strong predictor of smoking."

Designer ciders and alcoholic fruit juices are the drinks most widely used by schoolchildren to get drunk, and the growth in such brands is liable to fuel underge drinking say researchers.

of 8 per cent, or fruit wines, with an alcohol level of 13 per cent, to get drunk. They say in the British Medical Journal: "The level of salf-reported drunkenness

among young people identi-fied in this study must give cause for concern. Clearly. such drunkenness is not



#### Last ditch pledge rescues painting

Den Gizister Arts Correspondent

A FTER the arrival of a fax pledging £10,000 at 5pm yesterday, the National Galleries of Scotland was expected to announce this morning that the painting, Erminia Finding The Wounded Tancred, by the Italian 17th century master Guercing, will master Guercino, will remain in Britain.

The eleventh hour pledge brought the Scottish galleries' appeal fund to within
\$\frac{\pmathbb{E}}{23,000}\$ of the \$\frac{\pmathbb{E}}{23,000}\$ on Wednesday been at Castle Howard ever needed to buy the painting just over \$\frac{\pmathbb{E}}{23,000}\$ million.

arranged in January to sell it to the world's richest museum, the J. Paul Getty Mu-seum in California, for £3.5

Timothy Clifford, direc-tor of the National Galler-ies of Scotland, launched an an export block on the sale.

million.

and keep it in the country. Following two extensions fund was tantalisingly. The picture's owners, the Howard family of Castle final stay of 24 hours was Air Clifford said: "It Howard in Yorkshire, had granted on Wednesday, to really is nail-biting stuff. expire at midnight last night.
The bid was put together

with a grant of 75 per cent from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, £100,000 tor of the National Galler-ies of Scotland, launched an appeal to buy the picture and the Department of National Heritage placed

each from the National Fine Art Collections Fund, the Secretary of State for Scotland, and John Paul National Heritage placed

Getty Jnr., son of the man behind the California mu-

really is nail-biting stuff. Considering we have raised so much, it would be a dreadful shame if we were to lose the painting now. However, the decision to bid for the painting, an hisscene from the crusades, at-tracted criticism, with its

relevance to Scotland being questioned. The painting was bought at Christie's by the Earl of Carlisle in 1772 and bas

#### Germans are our close friends, Soames tells Thatcher in 'frightful row'

Political Correspondent

ARMED forces minister Nicholas Soames yester-day revealed details of a dramatic bust-up with former premier Lady Thatcher when he was forced to defend the Germans as "our allies and our close, close friends". The controversial pro-

Europe minister also allies at launched a strong attack on friends." Europe "crap" to readers about "foreigners and Europe and anti-this and anti-that" The row - which took place recently at a private lunch and which was

revealed by Mr Soames in an | scepticism which is shared by | BSE while at the department. interview with the Times yesterday — has further exposed the deep divisions within the Conservative Party over pol-

icy towards Europe.

Mr Soames told the newspaper: "I had a frightful row with Lady Thatcher the other day at a luncheon party. She was was banging on about the Germans, and — I have to tell you — the Germans are our allies and our close, close

tails about the nature of their spat, he refused, but he admit-ted that "Lady Thatcher and many within this country

some members of the Cabinet as well as Tory backbenchers and members of other political parties, Mr Soames said: "I regard the Europhobes' views as being damaging to

to the interests of our party and in every way to the inter ests of the nation. In a swipe at the newspaper industry, he complained: "People's morale is bad be-

the interests of our country,

cause they're fed this crap in and Europe and anti-this and anti-that".

The former agriculture minister was asked in the interview whether he "grossly Wales after her infamous misjudged" the problems of Panorama interview as possi-

and was remarkably candid. Declaring an interest, as president of the Sussex Cattle Breeders Society, he admitted he even failed his biology O

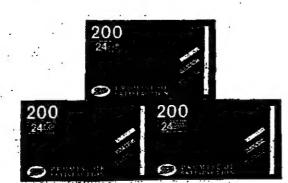
"No minister did anything without taking the advice of scientists. If you're asking whether I ever made a mistake, the answer is you could mistakes I made"

Prince of Wales last sparked controversy when he de-nounced the Princess of paranoia", and "a woman sac to the point of mental

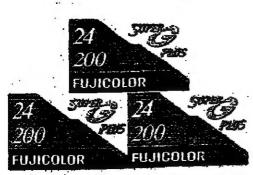
Earlier this week, the row over Europe flared up again when MPs warned the Government that Britain faces tough "battles" with its Conti-nental neighbours over the future shape of the European

The Commons foreign affairs select committee Mr Soames, who is one of claimed ministers had under-

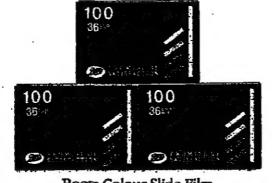
# for the price of



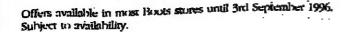
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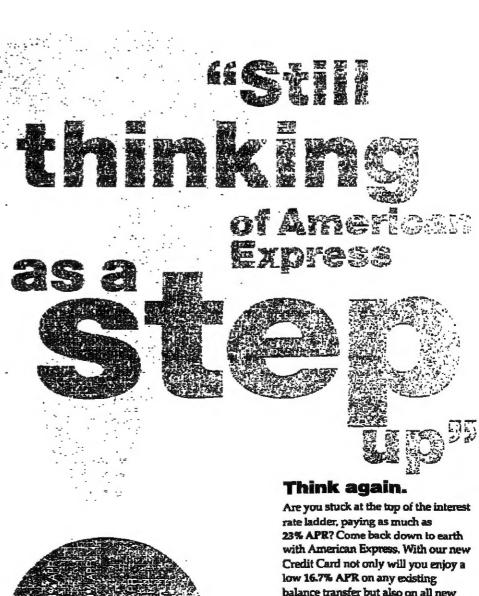
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#### REPUBLICAN CONVENTION: Wife wins over delegates and TV viewers, setting stage for battle of the First Ladies

# 'Sugar Lips' gives Dole kiss of life

Martin Walker in San Diego

LIZABETH Dole launched her own front in the United States presidential campaign yester day, promising to challenge Hillary Clinton directly as an experienced political activist and former cabinet member,

"A star is born, along with campaign between presi dents, vice-presidents and first ladies," said Norman Ornstein, senior political said Norman scholar at the American Enterprise Institute. Mrs Dole, he said, was "Hillary in soft focus, politically accomplished but unthreatening, a woman of power with no harsh feminist edges". Nicknamed "Sugar Lips

when she worked in the Lyndon Johnson administra-tion, Elizabeth Dole was then a Democrat. She later worked for Richard Nixon, became a Republican and served as labour secretary for President Ronald Reagan and transpor-George Bush.

man than Bill Clinton and I think a lot more than half the country knows that she is far and away the better woman. No Whitewater, no Travelgate, no tantrums," the defeated rightwing candidate, Pat Bu-

chanan, told the Guardian. Adopting the style of televination night, Mrs Dole roamed the audience, introducing the woman who nursed her husband through his post-war operations, the family of the doctor who operated on him, and the disabled couple who inspired him to found the Dole Foundation. A private charity which has raised more than \$4 million (£2.6 million) for the disabled, feature of "the unknown Bob Dole" whom she introduced vision viewers around the

Mrs Clinton would find it the relaxed and uncontroversial performance of Mrs Dole, even among friends at the poll ratings are worse than 89 million

those of her husband and she is almost a hate figure among

depublican activists. "Fire the president and ber husband too", is a characteristic bumper-sticker on sale at

Republican souvenir stands. Mrs Dole spoke of her hus band bringing 35 inner-city youngsters home for Thanksgiving dinner. "You never got to hear of it through the media because he never told anybody about it. He did it from his heart. That's the kind of man my husband is."

She spoke of their court-ship, when he came to her mother's kitchen with a towel draped over his withered arm and shattered shoulder, saying she needed to understand the nature of his wartime handicap before blessing her daughter's marriage. "That's not a handicap, it's a badge of honour." was her mother's reply, a family intimacy shared with millions by the would-be First Lady.

She produced a testimonial from a former Democrat savsocial security. She called her husband a tax-cutter and complained that President Clinton had vetoed a Medicare bill he helped to draft, then mounted a "multi-million dollar ad campaign to scare our

Prowling the floor of the convention hall with a microphone, she said: "He is a man f character, who has lived a life rich in values like hones ty, decency, respect, love of God, love of family."

The focus groups arranged by the Republican Party back in Ohio and in Georgia with dials to record the ups and downs of their reactions - turned their approval rat ings "off the clock" during her appearance, according to the convention producer. Michael Deaver

But not nearly as many

people saw her performance as the Republicans had hoped. Television viewers have been turning off in droves, and her words reached fewer than 9 million homes. On the first night of the convention, when the former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, Colin Powell. almost impossible to match spoke, 12 million households were tuned to the hour-long prime time coverage by the big three networks. By con-Democratic convention, Mrs trast, the average audience



# Sun shines on San Diego as city seduces visitors

Jonathan Freedland in San Diego

FTER the Olympics trashed the reputation of the sweating, congested host city, the Repub-lican convention has done the reverse for San Diego making it one of the few undisputed winners of this week's politics fest. Long ignored or, wors

derided as a glorified suburb of Los Angeles, San Diego has been showered with plaudits for its smooth handling of the greatest logistical challenge outside

educed by the city. San Diego has gloried in its moment in the sun, which shines near constantly with an average year-round temperature of

70 degrees. Conventioneers the waterfront and gaz across the Pacific. No wonder the television weather man signs off each night, 'Life is Good in San

For the 2.7 million locals, last night's coronation of Diego had nothing to sell Bob Dole merely bestowed and was overshadowed by hosting an Olympiad. Even on San Diego the attention its California neighbours. it had the chance to make quip that the Mexicans who point.

better, the 30,000 visiting it has long deserved. "Even | The city's low self-esteem | amends. "What we've seen | routinely cross the border delegates, politicians and | a lot of people in California | deepened in 1972 when the | is San Diego's inferiority | from Tijuana have been | don't realise we've been the | Republicans pulled their | complex on full display," | hidden from view for the sixth-largest city in the

> The trouble with its success is that it's a good advert for Clinton's presidency

But San Diego's hour of plory has been a long time coming. Sacramento and San Francisco had gold, Los Angeles had oil but San Diego had nothing to sell

said Mayor Susan Golding. | was due to start, smid a financial scandal and fears that San Diego couldn't rity effort. Party officials transferred the event to

Miami inste This week, 24 years later. said Steve Erie, a political

Not that you would know it from the banners and bunting that have decked out the streets and trolley stations in the city centre. all of them carrying the semi-official slogan, Ameri-

ca's Finest City. Local cynics — and Demo-crats — say San Diego doesn't always look this good, and that every main street has been repayed and

Economic activity has icked up to the extent that the city spent so much lur-ing the Republicans that the convention was the most expensive ever. House prices are rising and the city is weaning itself off the local navy base, replacing defence dollars with new, hi-tech industry.

The trouble with the San Diego success story is that it's a pretty good advert for for the convention. Some And that was hardly the

# Panamanian youth dance to new tunes

Musicians are shunning 'gringo' culture in favour of their roots, reports Phil Gunson

manian town of Chitre in the 1980s, a punk hairstyle and a fondness for heavy-metal key to social advancement. "It's a very conservative town, very traditional, and I've always been a bit of a rev-

olutionary," says Emilio. Emilio and his friends. Christian Torres and Javier Saavedra, used to play their music in a bar in exchange for free beer, but the authori

"At first it was very difficult," he says. "They associated us with drugs and they'd send the police . . The trio has metamor-phosed into a band called Los Rabanes. They have a nation-

News in brief

military rulers

IGERIA'S military ruler, General Sani Abacha, has cemented his position by dis-

missing all military adminis-

trators of the country's 30

The terse announcement on

state television on Wednes-

day night surprised many people. "We were not expect-

ing it quite like that, but then

a strong boss can hire and fire

any time," a senior Nigerian

The change is the most sweeping at state level since Gen Abacha seized power in

November 1993 during chaos

The statement named new

administrators, who - like

their predecessors — are from the middle army rank of colo-

nel or its navy, air-force or police equivalent. They will be sworn in next Wednesday.

The administrators are the

A senior military officer

second tier of authority in

Nigeria after the federal gov-ernment based in Abuja.

said those replaced would be assigned other military

duties. "This is normal mili-

tary posting and the commander-in-chief does not

owe anyone any explana-tion," he said. — Reuter.

precipitated by the annul

journalist said.

ment of elections.

HEN Emilio Regueira | wide hit record, have been | recently were seen as unfash-was growing up in | featured on MTV Latino and | ionably provincial are being | are on the brink of a distribution deal with Sony Music. But they didn't do it by rejecting their roots. Los Rabanes are part of a new musical phenomenon that is gathering steam from Mexico to Argentina, and which turns on its head the old

dogma about cultural

Searching for a category for the band, MTV Latino came up with "salsa-grunge", but their influences range from Nirvana and the Sex Pistols to Panama's version of calypso and the rural, accor-dion-based music played in local dance halls and known

as pindin. Throughout Latin America, folk rhythms that until and all that, but ultimately we

Abacha sacks Indian PM minds his language

movement, but does not com-

mand enough men to thwart a

breakaway faction seeking

peace, according to a dissi-dent guerrilla.

Nee, the right-hand man of

the breakaway commander

interview that Pol Pot is still

Sok Pheap, confirmed in an

alive — contrary to rumours earlier this year — and

nationalists once dismiss as "gringo music", along with salsa, mereneue and other

Mexican bands mix rock with rancheras, the local ver sion of country music, while in Costa Rica a group called Editus has fused new-age Latin rhythms.

Emilio Reguelra says the arrival of MTV Latino from the United States via a programme on a local television channel in the early 1990s was key development. But Los Rabanes have no

difficulty reconciling gringo influences with Panamanian culture. "We can be rebels

NDIA'S prime minister, H.D. Deve Gowda (left).

yesterday gave his independence day speech in Hindi, India's national language, which he had vowed to

master after taking office

two months ago, writes

Suzanne Goldenberg. His stilted delivery

blunted the impact of an address which defended In-

dia's decision to block the

Departing from the usual

anti-Pakistan rhetoric, Mr

Gowda said he would pacify

Kashmir by holding elec-

We want the end of fighting. "He hasn't enough armed forces to do anything about it. He's starving now. He has no power. If he had, he would have the head he would be the starving the had.

have come to get us by now." The Khmer Rouge split was

made public last week when

Cambodia's second prime

minister, Hun Sen, said three

Pol Pot 'alive but powerless'

Rouge guerrilla leader. commander of internal af-remains at the head of his fairs. "We want democracy.

earlier this year — and remains committed to taking power by force. "But our policy is not accordance with the government side. — AP.

nuclear test-ban treaty.

have these traditions inside | with the music of the Cajuns us," he says. Every Rabanes concert

ends with a punk-rock ver-sion of a nationalist song from the 1960s, American Colony No! The Canal is Ours. For Panamanian salsa star and Hollywood actor Rubén Blades, whose backing helped to put Los Rabanes on the map, dismisses what others call the threat of gringo cul-tural penetration. "This isn't

the penetration of any damn thing," he says. "I see it as a manifestation of youth." He traces his enthusiasm for rock music to the day when, aged six, he heard Elvis Presley's Heartbreak Hotel on his aunt's record-

player.
"When people talk about 'gringo music' they see it as imperialist, as a North American invasion," he says. "But it's not 'gringo music', it's a mixture of everything — Mexican, Irish, German, French,

Kaunda aides

'were framed'

EIGHT Zambian opposition leaders charged with trea-son alleged yesterday that

government agents mounted

sabotage bombings to blame on their party before elec-

A defence lawyer, Sebastian Zuln, at the opening of the trial of the leaders of Kenneth Kaunda's opposition group, said the politicians believed a

police bomb-disposal expert

killed in one blast on June 6

was planting the device and

not attempting to defuse it

when he died. He also contended that the

officer, Ordon Banda, was

drunk when handling the

device at Lusaka airport.
The attorney-general,
George Chilupe, alleged that
Inyambo Yeta, Mr Kaunda's

leputy in the United National

Independence Party, and

seven senior aldes recruited saboteurs to plant bombs in Lusaka and the central Cop-

perbeit province in May and June to protest against a reworked constitution ban-

ning Mr Kaunda from run

ning in elections that must be

Four of the eight, three of

them former army officers

have been charged with

tions later this year.

Spain with the guitar. That guitar that Elvis Prealey played was an instru-ment the Arabs originally introduced."

But Mr Blades, who himself had to leave Panama for New York to escape obscurity, wants the new generation of Panamanian artists, musi-cians, film-makers and others to be able to make it at home.

Mr Blades, who stood for president of the republic two years ago, is now using the commercial success he achieved in America to promote local talent at hop His latest album, La Rosa de los Vientos (the rose of the winds), was recorded at the new Origen studios in Pana-

ma City. "For the first time an album with guaranteed international projection has been recorded in Panama," he says. Previously, the infrastructure simply didn't

Sweets sicken

More than 300 children were

taken ill in two separate inci-

dents yesterday after eating contaminated sweets in west-

ern India during indepen-dence day celebrations.

Police said the children

came from villages close to

Snake-point theft

Thieves armed with poison-

ous rattlesnakes are terroris-

ing residents of Diriamba,

southern Nicaragua, the newspaper El Nuevo Diario

reported yesterday. - Reuter.

Mass electrocution

Thirty-five people died and

they were electrocuted after a

firework struck a high-voltage cable and knocked it to the ground in Arequipa, southern Peru.—Reuter.

The Turkish foreign minister,

Tansu Ciller, arrived in

northern Cyprus yesterday for talks with the leader of the

self-proclaimed Turkish Cypriot state, amid tension along the UN-controlled

Leader comment, page 8

Ciller in Cyprus

poisoning - Reuter.

300 children

#### 'Blue-blooded conman' with a general love of greenbacks

Christopher Reed in Los Angeles

HE grand old tradition of aristocratic British confidence tricksters has apparently been upheld in the distinguished person-age of General Marc Debden-Moss OBE — except that is not his real name, he is no general and he received no Order.

It surprises many visiting Britons in California that even today a hearty upper-class English accent works wonders among the natives. The general, or sometimes "Sir" Marc Debenham, or "Colonel" Jonathan Hancock,

Jonathan Hancock, exploited this to the maxi-mum from his elegant Sunset Boulevard office. Here the silver-baired gentleman, aged 72, dealt in complicated international currency exchanges in which he allegedly transferred \$3 million (£2 million) of other people's

money to himself.

His case is detailed in 43 pages of testimony filed in a Los Angeles court by a customs agent. The "gen-eral" remains in custody, awaiting trial. Police are unsure of his identity. He was arrested at his

\$5,700 a month rented home in a secluded area where, he had explained to his estate agent, he carried out "secu-Bhiwandi, about 75 miles north of Bombay, where 50 people have died from food rity council" work. He spoke of his involvement in the "osmium isotope".

But his real interest was greenbacks. In one haul, it is alleged, he pocketed \$20,000 via his "Charterhouse Gulf Holdings" for a bogus shipment of Brazilian sugar to a Californian commodities broker.

In a \$50,000 deal he is said to have supplied a sham document from a non-existent bank" in the south Pacific Republic of Nauru. His biggest deal was \$1.9 million said to have been received from an Austrian businessman for 90 million cigarettes for Moscow, a deal that went up in smoke.

He was arrested last month when US agents called out "General" as he parked his car. He replied: That's not me." It seems his response bore at least some element of truth

Review page 7 **Avoid getting** into trouble overseas, travel with

The problem with

Dartington is that it

caters for any fantasy.

just can't say no. It

John O'Reilly

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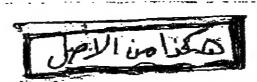
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problem with beginn is that it can't say no. It is for any fantas

d getting trouble seas, el with eone big

12 Weather/Television

The weather in Europo

The Guardian Internationa really be making a comeback? circus on the Edinburgh fringe

akespeare

| Tordey | mar phy | Montest Learners | Montest Lea

The big business of bardolatri

10 737

The Quardian Friday August 16 1996

Shakespeare's theatre, as

# says Claire Armitstead only just about to begin, has its first performance next week. The battle is

s. Their promein is challenged with artificial chalques of a theatre that has developed with artificial roscenium arch and the studio, with artificial ing and microphones. A theatre which is strugto communicate with audiences raised with a Ision in the living-room. They too, have reason to crifice of seeing their ideas set in timber: the is the ultimate experimental space. If it doesn't is it the fault of the theatre or the actors?

1 Wary (8)
2 Brave, game (5)
3 Verse (6)
4 Unaccompanied (4)
8 Small Mexican dog (9)
7 & (9)
7 & (9)
12 Picadors (anagram) — appearing intermittently

15 Cigarette lighter fuel (5)
17 Manhandle — scrum — hammer (4)

ylance, 36, a brilliant actor, is an odd figurehead an institution that — in time — should be among don's premier tourist attractions. Where you ild expect a smart-talking huckster, alert to any keting opportunity, you find a man who does not it to be a hero — so determined that the Globe be

(8) 14 Instructed (6)

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ors programing (C,C++, Vinal Basic) Brossit Franklike Causa Experience desirable

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(4) **19** Genuine (9)

Squillions

by David Shenton

It's me [

3

11 Reply (6)
13 Smooth-haired hound (6)
15 Examination of body itsue (6)
16 Overcome (8)
18 Female relative

5 Whirlpool (9) 8 Close, eg door or book (4)

Jear soup (8) peculative idea

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The Guardian Friday August 16 1990

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O GAMERY ANALYBRS L

This is the star actor who, in one RSC season, played Romeo and Hamlet, as one critic remarked. His administrative commitment runs to mortgaging his administrative commitment runs to mortgaging his right Stones, where it was almost washed away. He is a slight figure, with a Wisconsin lilt and a rare quality of gentleness that — without being sexless — has more in common with Ariel in The Tempest than with Coriolanus. You imagine that as a boy he kept orphaned fledglings in shoe boxes beneath his bed.

Mark Rylance is parhaps the clearest embodiment of the theatre establishment's urge to understand its patron saint. There is something unworldly in his talk of the "mystery" of Shakespeare. There is even a certain recklessness in his choices. He won't be open ing the Globe with a GCSE set text like Romeo And Juliet or a star vehicle like Macbeth. Instead, its first public season — or "prologue" — will begin next Wednesday with the early comedy Two Gentlenien of Verona. True to form, he leads from the middle as Proteus, one of the two gentlenen, in a production directed by a fellow actor, Jack Shepheril. "I wanted someone who put the needs of the players first, not in

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Keith Watson meets a dance legend

ell they

uecking a motorway pile-up, the yes being dragged against their will into the wreckage, Yet Nureyev was not unique: ballet history is littered with legends who went for one leté too many. It's called ego.

That Mikhail Barysinlikov sidestepped this sad saide is down to a happy collision between fate and frustration. Had his causer not been derailed by a knee injury seven years ago, there is a fair chance he may have been persuaded to persevers on the classical stage. But it was derailed and now, at 48, his re-invention of himself as a virtuoso modern dancer is all but complete. The White Oak Dance Project, which started almost as a hobby for Baryslnikov and the choreographer Mark Morris, is now a fully iedged company, criss-crossing the globe with a repertory drawn from leading modern choreographers and a group of experienced thirty-and for two markshing modern choreographers and a group of experienced thirty-

It would be easy to assume the Valte Oak is a second-best option Baryshnikov, making the best a body no longer fit for classification. Easy to assume, that is, using the star of work: in piece

"Modern dance gives you the opportunity to age with your material without being embarrassed. You're not wearing tights. You're not trying to pretend you're 20 years younger than you really are. The roperiors that we have gives me the chance to be exactly my age — to have something to say and a way of saying it." Not that reaching such an equilibrium has been easy Durting this foreurs as different easy Durting the saying it.

another dancer; they have a son and live in New York — is strictly of limits. What fives Baryshnikov these days is his second coming as a modern dancer. He clearly regrets not pursuing this path sooner.

"When you work with clessical choreography it's all a question of craft and technique. You take classical choreography it's all a question of craft and technique, You take classical work as a given thing and you don't really think about it — it's more entertainment than anything else. You don't really worry yoursell with what it's about, because it's wholever.

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ves movi

loner, parely in the mainstream arely in the mainstream arely in the mainstream arely in the mainstream are garde. The work of Jerome obbins, Hanya Holm and Twyla harp has also figured prominently n White Oak's short history, a Paryshnikov has gathered around arryshnikov has gathered a

**Hero** by Charles Williams 3radman: An Australian

336pp, Little, Brown, £20
The Don
by Roland Perry

Matthew Engel

Pirst there was W G Grace, patriarch of the game and law unto himself. Then there was Jack Hobbs, a betsman of such gentle mastery that he was inclined to give his wicket away once he had reached his hundred and let the others have a crack.

But the batsmen who came after Hobbs were more implacable figures. There was Walter Hammond of Gloucestershire, who by the late 1920s was recognised as the greatest batsmen in the world. And he would have remained so, but for a country boy from New South Wales who was even better.

Don Bradman superseded and surpassed Hammond. To counter him, England had to invent a new form of bowling ("bodyline") that would eventually become universally recognised as unfalt. Bradman rose above crists, the backbiting of rivals, and regular bouts of illness. He became a knight, Australian cricket's foremost administration and then something close to a patron saint—not just of cricket, but of his country.

Hammond, in contrast, died in 1965, exiled in South Africa, close to both poverty and oblivion. He does not rate a mention in the general history books. In any case, England arguably could not have a

Beyond a Boundary, by GL R James (Berpent's Teil, £8.99) To say "the best cricket book ever written" is pifflingly inadequate

by Dava Sobel 184pp, Fourth Estate, £12 ead reckoners

ONGITUDE helps you get the hang of the space-time continuum, and relativity too. Since the globe revolves every 24 hours, degrees of longitude mark not just distance from Greenwich, but time. A degree of longitude is four minutes; 15 degrees is an hour. Longitude was for the most part calculated by dead reckoning; how far do you think you have sailed today?

Seven years ofter Admiral Sir Clowdisley Shovell gut it wrong and lost his entire fleet and 2,000 souls on the Scilly isles in 177, the British Parliament passed the Longitude Act of 1714. The enur-

mous sum of £20,000 was offered for a solution to the problem of measuring longitude. Much was at stake. The importal powers sought wealth in far-flung colonies, but to exploit on Island passession you had to find it, know that you could find it mgain and again.

For that, you had to be sure of your longitude. The astronomers had a pa (so did a number of charlatans and hunatics) and out of their efforts there came a prodigious mapping of the heavens, but accurate exlestial fixes at night at sea were beyond most sallors, and probably most astronomers. The probably most astronomers. The probably most astronomers. The probably most astronomers. The probably most astronomers, all you needed for longitude were two clocks, one of them set on some appointed meridian, one of them adjusted to local time. If they neither lost nor gained, and you had your latitude accurately, then hey Dava Sobel's lively little book tells, once again, the story of John Harrison, the extraordinary clockmaker who mado a series of extraordinary thmepleces, which needed no lubrication, nor cleaning; which were impervious to rust; which were impervious to changes in temperature. He was cheated rotten by the establishment and treated with fieudish shabbiness by the then Astronomer-Royal, Nevil Maskelyne: It took liturison 40 years to get his reward, which was delivered grudgingly.

A century later the Royal Navy had 200 ships and 800 chronometers, and undisputed command of the high seas. In 1894 an international conference in Wushington DC confirmed Greenwich us the meridian: the place where time each day began. The French of course lagged behind until 1911, when they grudgingly began referring to "Paris Mean Time, retarded by nine minutes 21 seconds".

That's GMT to anybody else.

Tim Radford

Helnemann, £18.99)

Easy Ment is a welcome return to form after the disappointing Living Prvof. Harvey's work is always distinguished by its compassion and humanity and here he tackles the hard issues: homosexuality single parents, women who still want sex, even though they are older and have lost the bloom and ready allure of youth. Charilo Resnick, Harvey's jozz-loving, cathoring, vaguely slobbish detective, demonstrates a real empathy with the criminals and low-life with whom he has to deal, never patronsing, never dismissive, always concerned. As a result, he arouses a sympathy and compassion in the reader that echoes his own.

by Ed NcBain (Hodder & Stoughton, £ 16.99)

I have to confess to a snerking preference for McBain's Matthew Hope novels over his 87th Precinct series. Set in Florida, they have a relaxed tropical flavour that you don't find in the gritty New York banks. And lawyer Matthew Hope is a dish who used to drive a Karmann Ghia d had one once). This

Lucretia Stewart

the Hope's first case since he nearly died after being shot and everyour. from his ex-wife to his pertner to his girlfriend, is hovering around woiting to see if he remembers how to the his shoolaces. Sexy, squinting Elaine Commins is a young toy designer and Matthew's client. She says that she designed Gladly, the cross-eyed bear; her former employer, Brutt Toland, says that he did. It's up to the exact to decide. But soon murder enters the picture and the case ceases to be about who designed the lawe:

Mind Prey, by John Sandford (MarperCollins, £16.99 hbk)
John Sandford is a brilliunt unil totally underruled writer. Mind Prey is his seventh novel about Detective Lacas Davenpart and a match for its predecessors. These are psychological thrillers in the Red Drugon! Silvace of the Lambs mode — just as seary, almost as good. In this one, a somewhat unbalanced ex-patient kidnaps psychiatelist Andi Manotte and her two young dinghters. As well as the horrar, Sandford skilffully portrays Davenport's complex character—50 per cent how man.

# The Quardian Friday August 16 1996

645pp, Sidgwick & Jackson,

Wally Hammond: The Reasons Why by David Foot

282pp, Robson Books,

Bradman: patron saint of Oz

# Majestic flow of a mere sportsman could occupy such a centreal role in national culture. For all that, Bradman (88 this mouth) was not a wholly unsultied haro in his day He fended with the cricketing authorities and some of the respect of his team-mates will amen became, a man of depth and gravitas, whose reputation wases the respect of his team-mates will a useful source. But there is not the respect of his deam-mates will with the years. He is the nearest the committy has to a homegrown Queen Mum. So it is right and proper that he should get a biography that consciously sets out to treat him as his social context. He has never bean garvulous and has tirned down far more interviews than he ever turned down quick singles. But over the years Bradman his and pretty well everything he has the over the years Bradman his had covery fair book, and a good synthe so of the subject. Williams did met and correspond with his subject, and Bradman read but did the the singles of the subject, williams did met and correspond with his subject, and Bradman read but did the the signes to define the three the new with figures from the solitity that the insercury Hammond would treat the the siblishment — E W Swanton, Sir Colin Cowdrey and the sill sire of the siblishment — E W Swanton, Sir Colin Cowdrey and the sill side of t the

Paperbacks

Books 9

praise. A mental landscape triangulated by literature, socialism and cricket represents an ideal we should all aspire to, and this ennobling and beautifully written book should be read by anyone with the slightest interest in any one of the above (even interest in only one of the above). If the England team were made to read it, not only would they come away with a greatly despened understanding of West Indian history, but their IQs would leap up 30 points; and they'd never lose a match again. Maybo.

Codrescu (Quartet, £10)
Countess Elizabeth Bathory, you may recall, was the Hungarian noblewoman who believed that she would be able to preserve her beauty by bathing in virgins' blood. This novel, cunningly presented as the factual transcript of a confession by her contemporary descendant, gets elbow-deep into the gory legend. Not only supremely successful as gothic horror, it is also an intelligent and subtle examination of the writer's responsibilities, of the process of history, and the visceral, pagan ferceity of the Hungarian imagination. These subtleties might be occluded by the eye-popping descriptions of sadism, witchcraft and astonishingly kinky sex, but if you think Peter Ackroyd's novels are good, you'll think Codrescu is Tolstoy You'll like it if you think Ackroyd is rubbish. It deserves all his success, and far more.

God: A Biography, by Jack Miles (Simon & Schuster, £9.95)
Once you accept the premise that the God of the Old Testament can be treated as a literary character, then things begin to fall into place. Miles's reading of the Tanakh—the OT in its proper, Jewish, order—amending the odd crucial mistrauslation, is revelatory. The C of E God—that inoffensive celestial social worker of indeterminate gender—is unrecognisable. What we have here is the real thing, a personality split unessily between creator and flend, a being worthy of our terror but not our respect—and, ultimately, a vast, reverberating silence. Frank Capra: The Catastrophe of Success, by Joseph McBride (Faber, 212.99)
To quote from David Thomson's Biographical Dictionary of Film: "Then there has been Joseph McBride's careful and horrified biography of Capra. I say 'horrified acding fan of the director: Yet in the research... he found all kinds of flaws in the man: a hypocrite, a carearist and credit-grabber; a rearranger of the facts, a liar; a liar; a liar; a liar

Cybereex, ed Richard Glyn
Jones (Raven, £6.93)
Nice, fat anthology of sci-fi stories
from both established genrises
and slumming big names (Amis M.
Self W), palping the sticky surface
connections between the luture
and nookie. Includes an uncollected Vonnegut story with one of
the greatest titles ever ("The Big
Space Fuck").

down the road from Bedlam. Patrick McGrath used to live in Broadmoor and now lives English mind in extremis the asylum. He talks to Nicholas Wroe about the His fiction still inhabits

ness and some of the more extreme cases. For example, I was told about the vicar who baked his wife's head in the oven, but I was also aware that this was strange stuff. I was educated to know the difference between enjoying rather bizarre tales like that, and the serious business of psychiatric McGrath was brought up in the Broadmoor. His father was madical Superintendent there.

Madical Superintendent there.
They lived on site and the syoung Patrick's friends were the murderers, arsonists and rapists who tended the McGrath family garden. But while he has previously written childhood reminiscences and — in his 1993 novel by sproper. Job of describing a top security hospital in terms of the staff". The impulse seems to have heen the death of his father in 1994.

McGrath, who himself worked by made in the death of his father in 1994.

These efforts of his parents to rediste a peculiar home environment resulted in McGrath accumulating a welfer of half-heard, alf-remembered stories. One of asse has provided him with the asis of his new novel: "There was

basis of his new novel: "There was shalls incident when I was about deserven or eight," he recalls, "that I caught a whisper of, but no more was said. It involved a psychiatrist wife and a patient and it was, I think, pretty swiftly squalched by the authorities. But it's stayed with me, and with the idea of that triangle, the setting was ready made."

Asylum: Is his fourth novel and opens in the summer of 1959. It details, with characteristic psychic accuracy, the blighted lives of the Raphael family: ambitious sof the Raphael family: ambitious suid young son Charlie, and their relationship with the sculptor and twife-murderer Edgar Stark, who is a patient. The novel is narrated by Dr Peter Cleave, an older psychiatrist, who observes the unfolding catastrophe with a detached and jaundiced professionalism. as an orderly at Broadmoor and in an institution in Canada, has made a speciality of portraying the intricacles of psychological disorder, delivered in the most impectable prose. Through a series of emotionally and intellectually thrilling fictions, habitually set in a sepletinted Home Counties some time between the 1930s and 1960s, he offers a stylish sifting of the psyches of the English in extremis.

Talking in the confines of the leafy garden of the South London town-house where he and his wife, the actress Maria Aitken, spend half their time (the other half is in New York where he has lived since 1981), the 46-year-old McGrath is friendly but precise. Such is his association with derangement and its consequences, it comes as little surminant and surmines to be the town.

rofessionalism.

's novel contains all the ngredients for classic madness — a doomegher, sex, a symbolic act, Asylum has a symmowithin—a-house-within over the road from the site of the original Bedlam, on which now stands the Imperial War Museum. Sporting a short back and sides of such severity as to gladien the near of any fiftles hospital barber. of such severity as to gladien the heart of any fittles hospital barber, he is garrulously at ease with both the theory and practice of madness and incarceration. But while this writer has the haircut of a patient, his outlook is very much that of a doctor, as he recalls his exceptional upbringing. "Although my father was careful not to talk about the

apparency au-seeing narrator. Although he naking any fundamental of psychiatry, McGrath is to highlight the level of thy involved in this scilen a profession has such social power that it's able

the oven' his wife's the vicar head in baked about who

E pursues this line in Asylum through the character of Cleave, the apparently all-seeing marrator. Although but an arrator.

an unflinching depiction of sexual obsession. The tensions between the Raphaels and Edgar Stark leave Stella facing "on one side the pressure of society, the pressure of a child and the force of habit, and on the other the promise of rebirth that can come with a new lover". It is a particularly jucy conflict, with Stella being pulled one way by a lunatic and the other by a psychiatrist. In probing the

psychological accuracy and its refusal to embrace any supernatural hocus pocus, beyond the gothic genre. But McGrath has no problem with the label. "Gothic is an honourable term," he says, "and some of the best 19th-century writers wrote gothic. Before Freud told us how we worked, it was the gothic writers workings of the interested in the workings of the interns of Freud.

"But I'm in the post-Freudian tradition. While it may no longer require a gothic novellst to tell us that dark forces are roling around somewhere in our hearts, that doesn't mean you're not in a post-tion to create characters who are unconscious of the roots of their

Twas told

is his most

Broadmoor dayroom.

"I just happen to like the England of 30 or 40 years ago," he says.

"I like people smoking untipped Players and drinking gln. I'd much rather have a character drink gin than tequila. There's just something about a bottle of gin that's all its own."

This influing of the genter e strister — revealing sinister — revealin mething" about a bottle has become McGrath's

Proving that you can take boy out of the psychiatric home

negotiations of what is acceptable within those fraught circumstances, McGrath confronts the reader with "probably the most

Asykum is published by Widng on August 29 at C16.



Edinburgh 5

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The Guardian Friday Angust 16 1996

COSTONA OCRUM HRARDOTOHS

Or so Gerry Cottle says of the acts in his new-look circus, where Mad Max meets Hammer House of Horror. Dan Glaister shares a pint with the Prince of Pain

num urms. Loosing the other way, however, is not an option. My drink downed, the Prince of Pain placed a block of wood on the table and proceeded to nail his tongue to it. Welcome to the latest incarnation of Gerry Cottle's circus. Cottle, the affable Londoner with the penciant for traditional performance skills, has had a change of

After redring his circus three years ago to concentrate on the good things in life on his Surrey farm,

24-year-old wunderkind David Doisashvili radically reworks King Lear. Michael Billington watches on The Georgians

are coming

odds, he's back. Adam Sweeting reports mental illness. Now, against impossible Peter Green, the inspiration behind the original Fleetwood Mac, has spent 25 years in a wilderness of drugs and

LIHOUGH he has been mussing for most of the past 26 years, Pete

shoes. "It was never expressed in so many words and actually I would probably have been happier if it had been. I knew there were certain guitar licks you did not try to play."

Green had been driven,

Green had Desn and highly-strung before Flaetwood Mac made him an international star. He had browbeaten John Mayall into letting him join the Bluesbreakers by constantly badgering him with the news that he could play better than anyone else in his band (which at the time featured Eric Clapion on lead guitar). He was pushy and opinionated, and Mayall, realising that he wasn't likely to stay with the Bluesbreakers long.

definitely Welch, one guitarists

put the instrument down, and has been playing steadily ever since. He has just begun to bend notes again, in vintage bluesman's fashion.

Surrounded by a band comprising Cozy Powell on drums, Neil Murray on bass, Nigel Watson on second guitar and Spike Ethney on keyboards, Green has allegedly been turning in emotional shows in Europe, mixing the likes of Black Magic Woman and Green Manalishl with new songs and old blues warhorses by the likes of Freddie King. He has recorded Midnight for a Shadows tribute album and Walk Don't Run for a Ventures testimonial, and there's talk of an album of his own as well as a tribute disc for the late Rory Gallagher. Old budy Mick Fleatwood is involved in arranging a record deal for him.

His progress, according to Reynolds, has been heartening. He voluntarily gave up his medication nine months ago, and doctors and psychiatrists believe that his schizophrenia has burned itself out. "He's obviously been damaged," Reynolds points out, "and he'll never be 100 per cent, but he's still improving. He's a very calm, kind person and his whole life is music." There's no point in speculating on the music Green might have made had his health not suffered. He's making the most of the present. "I don't want it to be Peter Green and Splinter Group, I just want to be part of the band. I don't want to be part of the band. I don't want to do my old stuff. I'm in no hurry Just taking my time."

the group play some famblan war drumming. By the time I arrived half the class had reced off to the Herbic Flowers rock shop to practise for the gig later that evening. It is this anarchy, which has its own peculiar logic, that some people find confusing.

Artistic director Gavin Hemlerson admits that there are always two or three students each year that demand a regimented agenda of study and are bewildered by Dartington. "What makes it special but also confusing particularly for some overseas visitors, who think they are going to meet the new Jacqueline Du Pre who started here, is that they find all these amateurs. People from all sorts of backgrounds, all ages, joined together by pusice meet up on equal towns. A

s drummer Roger Taylor lieving a Peter Green come-ras imminent. Meanwhile, were stories that the real had become a grave-digger

though doubt lingers over whether the incident ewer occurred. He spent time on a kibbutz, an experience which apparently made him consider joining the PLO.

His father had changed the family's name from its Jewish form, Greenbaum, to Green in 1948, but for a time Peter reverted to the original version, and went to live with his parents, Joe and Anne, in Canvey Island in Essex. Here, he was visited last year by Michelle Reynolds, who used to be married to Fleetwood Mac's manager Cliff.

dinner queue beside Ruggierri Ricci. If you look at the choir, I've seen a high court judge standing beside someone on income support beside someone who had hitched from Poland."

In the past the school might have suffered from associations with the flaker Dartington Trust, the only institution that could make the back-to-basics educational policy seem like the motel of guod sense. The current atmosphere of convicting an archive a marchic egalitarianism stems partly from the greatefamous, prisonality of Gavin Henderson. So how does he persuade famous, well-pute musicians to come to Dartington? He makes them an offer they can't refuse. "This is the deal, You teach all day every day for a week, You take part in concerts. You might be a great planist so we say we want you to give a recital and may onebody else. We'll feed you, we'll pay somebody else. We'll feed you, we'll gets the same fee. And that could be somebody who's just out of college or a world famous artist."

If there is any spare money it seems to go on bursaries for students. There were the Polish students who hitch-hiked and busked across Europe who arrived with just the clothes on their backs. They were enrolled and there was n

fection is unsettling and you think. "Is this some Devonian Stepford inhabited by perfect musical clones?" But Dartington isn't Stepford. It's not that the grounds of the summer school aren't unimaginably gorgeous. And it's not that there aren't some of the most talented musicians in the world here. It's just that the apparent langour conceals a more chaotic energy. Dartington is more like M\*A\*S\*H with madrigals.



early music instruments that were not available in Poland.

So financial considerations are not really an issue for musicians. It's an opportunity for people with reputations to experiment and try things out without the glare of publicity. Also, because quite often things tend to get done on the hoof, it offers good professional practice in front of an audience who, though generous, are not uncritical.

generous, are not uncritical.

Y This year one of the stage performances was Lampe's The Dragon of Wantley. This is aroque parody of Handel in the hands of Liverpool Pluyhouse director. Richard Williams had more than a small of Reeves and Mortimor about it. Conductor Paul Gondwin laughed like a man who had survived akydiving without a parachute, "It's quito tight really it took a week to put on a full scale opera." And of the final cast only two were present on the first day. As percussionist Richard Benjafekd, who was asked on Friday morning to play in the Te Deum and Magnificat with the Choir that night, puts it, "I'm here, have sticks, will play." The orchestra practised with the Summer School Choir for the first time on the day of the event, and the sopramo walked in at 9am having driven overnight from the Norwich. Even then they were missing a violin section.

That "can do" effosts as true of the amateurs whose cagerness provides the infectious enthusiasm of the school, in order to find people to play with, you put your photo upon the protice. Even they with the surviving with the solution of the school, in order to find people to play with, you put your photo upon the protice. instrument you play. One aspiring musician said it's a bit like being back in the school yard getting picked for a game of fruitrill. Except here you're bound to find a team of goalies. Even I managet to croak my way through a rehreusal for the all-corners gospel chenrorganised by Herble Flowers.

The problem with Dartington is that it just can't say no. It catters in any fantasy. You can play in an orchestra. Or as the unazingly in an orchestra. Or as the unazingly larger explains, you can play in an orchestra. Or as the unazingly in an orchestra. Or as the unazingly in an orchestra, or as the unazingly in an orchestra. Or as the unazingly in an orchestra, or as the unazingly in are an arts inpresario. "There is a gay who usually takes it upon himself to invite artists buck to fulure summer school. Then we'll get letters from musicians saying the artistic director invited me to come and give master classes. We have to explain that he's just a punter really." Dartington even having the own mythical warkers, "the trogs." These volunteers, who have its own mythical warkers, who have included Nicholas Kenyan and Simun Rattle, come out at night to fix and mend.

I spent two days at Dartington. I had my ears phined to the back wall in the magnificent Great Hall by the Summer School Choir singing Bruckner. I saw a scandalous, little century baroque blockbuster, in which a shuging star of the future Mark Guerin fell into the pit on to £20,000 worth of instruments and didn't miss a heat I sang. I drank. I went hone and slept for a week.

The Quardian Friday August 16 1996

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evonshire

At times Darlington's social mix and speed of life resembles Marhattan's melting pot more than a holiday camp. To survive you step into the eye of the storm. Between Bem and milday there are at least a dozen different musterclasses and general jamming sessions you could attend from chamber music to West African percussion. But it soom becomes clear that the programme, posted up with a promise and a prayer; can never keep pace with the wild benst that is Darting-ton. There always seems to be more going on then is feasible. On the Fylduy morning percussionist Helhard Beninfield lold me to cause down

John O'Reilly spends two days in the hothouse atmosphere of the Dartington Festival

Music 7

Ils are alive

# new money in Yeltsin cabinet

Our correspondent and

of Independent States. Unveiling the new cabi

paid to speculation since Mr Yeltsin's re-election that he would seek the help of his communist-nationalist opponents on economic reform and offer them a similar translational in the second s the cabinet.

ment may raise questions of a conflict of interest, because Uneximbank gained control of the gigantic Nortisk Nickel metals combine last year in the gov-ernment's controversial loans-for-shares auctions. The Switzerland-based Uneximbank denotes a rare



Vladimir Potanin: backed

one of the world's thousand biggest banks. Mr Potanio was one of the leading proponents of the loans-for-shares pro-gramme. Uneximbank orga-nised the "auction" of a third of Norilsk Nickel's shares, made three of the bids, disqualified the fourth, and won trusteeship of the stock for a little over £100 million, a fraction over the minimum price.

There was no suggestion of Uneximbank having operated illegally, but the inclusion of Mr Potanin in the government opens the door for even cosier ar-ranged alliances between Russia's new financial empires and its lucrative but investment-starved raw-

debt negotiator, retained the foreign trade portfolio.

Mr Chernomyrdin was confirmed by parliament as head of the new government at the weekend by a comfortable 314 to 85 votes.

Mr Potanin's appointment of Patriotic economists believe the salvation of Russian industry of Russian industry

depends on the creation of domestic "financial-indus-trial groups" such as the Uneximbank-Norlisk tie-up — an arrangement Russia's new capitalists are only too keen to facilitate. The strength of Mr Potan-

in's relationship with the government was illustrated on Monday when President Yeltsin signed loan-repayment deferrals for Norilsk Nickel worth hundreds of millions of pounds to help with restructuring — at a

# Old power meets

ORIS YELTSIN has given his blessing to the marriage of new money and old power by appointing one of Russia's most powerful commercial bankers, Vladimir Potanin. namers, viadimir Potanin, to a key government post. The 35-year-old head of Uneximbank will be joined as a first deputy prime min-ister by Viktor flyushin, a former senior aide to President Yeltsin, and Alexei Bolshakov, previously in charge of relations with other former Soviet repub-lics in the Commonwealth

net yesterday, the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, said Mr Bolsha-kov, who joined the government in November 1994, would be the senior first deputy prime minister and would deputise for him. The new cabinet will put

them a significant role in Alexander Livshits

replaces Vladimir Panskov as finance minister. Oleg Davydov, Russia's chief

stamp of approval from the

eian financial group. Having made contacts as bureaucrat in the Russian foreign trade ministry, Mr Potanin branched into

wise authorities for a Rus-

business and registered Un-eximbank in 1993. It is now chronically short of funds.

#### Isolation ends as plane flies in

Julian Borger in Zagreb

ARAJEVO'S airport reopened to interna-tional traffic yesterday, when a Boeing 727 from Istanoul became the first commer cial flight to touch down in

more than four years. Bosnia's president, Alija Izethegovic, declared the airizethegovic, declared the airport open, standing alongside the United States secretary of state, Warren Christopher, who flew in yesterday on a pre-election tour of the Balkans.

Balkans.
"Step by step, Sarajevo's isolation is coming to an end," Mr Christopher said. The horizons which were shrunk by four years of hatred and war are once again lifted."

using a Turkish plane. Turk-ish pilots will fly the twiceweekly Sarajevo-Istanbul route, once more linking the Bosnian capital with its for-mer metropolls from the days of the Ottoman empire. Croatia Airlines also plans

a once-weekly flight between Zagreb and Sarajevo on a propeller plane. Air Bosna is hoping eventually to establish links with Germany and Scandinavia, which host the main concentrations of Bosnian refugees.

Nato will continue to have overall control of the airport

present peacekeeping mandate expires. The Bosnian beneath the runways.

government will operate cus-toms and immigration Mines have been cleared from the airfield and the run-

ways have been repaired, but the pre-war tarminal build-ings were damaged by shell-fire during the conflict and, for the time being, a white tent will serve as the depar-

ceremony.
"I told them: No bathrooms,

no airport." Richard Sklar, the US special representative for Bosnian reconstruction, told journalists this week. For now, pilots will have to

ganised by Air Bosna, the Bosnian national airline, using a Turkish plane. The land by sight only — electronic navigational aides will be installed as navigational aides will be installed as navigational aides. struction phase, half of which will be funded by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. This is ex-pected to be completed by next summer.

During the 43-month siege of Sarajevo, the airport was on Sarajevo, the all port was under UN control and was the only way in and out of the city. UN-approved passengers could board flights on transport planes.

Bosnians crept through an 800-yard tunnel under the airfield to government-controlled territory on the other and Bosnian airspace, at least side. The tunnel has since until Christmas when its been filled, Nato engineers

#### Police evacuate campers in Spain to avert flood threat

AP in Valencia

helped to evacuate more than 600 people from campsites yesterday after warnings of heavy rains in eastern Spain.

With authorities warning that expected rains might ause the Pinnan might warned to the campsites, the spokesman said.

At least 85 people died in flash flooding in a campsite in the Spanish Pyrenees on August 7. Since then, authorities have been said. cause the River Turin to flood, holidaymakers were evacuated from at least three sites in the eastern coastal region of Valencia and pro-vided with temporary lodging

m public halls and ware-houses in nearby towns, a spokesman for Valencia's

emergency services depart-ment said.

The rains, however, turned out to be lighter than pre-dicted and the evacuees later

tragedies. In France, a report by the environmental ministry leaked this week said hun-dreds of thousands of holiday-makers are at risk in French camping sites. At least 4,000 campsites are potentially un-safe because of the threat of natural or man-made disas-ters, the report said.

The Guardian Friday August 16 1996 **Minister in** 

hiding amid drug threats

David Beresford In Johannesburg

OUTH Africa's minister of justice, Dullah Omar, has had to move his family to a safe house amid growing fears that recent vigilante violence masks a drive for power by Islamic extremists.

Mr Omar, who was con-fronted at his home by a militant Muslim group earlier this year and given 60 days to take legal action against drug merchants, said he had moved to protect his family. He said on television he would return to his own house "once the attuation is

A ministry spokesman, Paul Setsetse, yesterday refused to say whether the threats came from gang memhers or from supporters of People Against Gangsterism and Drugs (Pagad). Pagad has denied it made any threats.

Another cabinet member said he had also received an ultimatum. The police minister, Sydney Mufamadi, said he had refused to meet representatives of a drug syndi-cate, The Firm, which had warned him to agree to talks

or face a backlash. The security scare adds to concern that Muslim militants with a political and reli-gious agenda are exploiting a law-and-order backlash in South Africa resulting from a collapse in effective policing.

prominence earlier this month with the lynching of a notorious gang leader in Cape Town — has heatedly denied it is a front organisation for Muslim fundamentalists. But it is believed to be effectively led by a militant organisation called "Qibla", founded in 1979 to campaign for the creation of an Islands state. Shortly before the 1994 majority-rule elections, Qibla's leader, Achmet Cassim, predicted that South Africa would be Islamic by the turn of the century

of the century. He has set up a new organi-sation, the Islamic Unity Convention, which claims to repre-sent 250 Muslim groups but which appears to be a front for Qibla. The IUC has set up its own community radio station on the Cape Flats — the mixed race areas where the clashes between vigilantes and gangs have been focused.

Qibla's chances of an Islamic revolution are slim: the Muslim community comprises less than 2 per cent of South Africa's population. Nevertheless, its quickness to exploit public frustration over endemic rustration over enterine crime adds to the pressure on President Nelson Mandela for a law and order crackdown.

The South African rand yesterday equalled its all-time April low of 4.565 against the American dollar. Currency declare blamed the fall on irr.

liveries of goods.

The rand has lost a quarter

dealers blamed the fall on im-



A member of "The Americans' gang watches as police raid the home of an alleged drug dealer in Valhalla Park, Cape Town, where community vigilante groups have declared war on gang members and drug pushers PHOTOGRAPH: SASA KRALJ



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# The Guardian

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#### A credibility gap

Justice must clearly be seen to be done

miscarriages of justice was already under a cloud - over delays in its establishment, the widening of its remit to sentences and minor offences, and its ill-defined duties in terms of how it remained high in the hearts of most reformers. A protracted campaign which only ignited after a succession of wrongful convictions - among them the Guildford Four, Birmingham Six and Maguire Seven - exposed serious faults in the criminal justice system, including police perjury and false forensic evidence, was moving to a conclusion. Belatedly but finally, the review of suspected miscarriages of justice was being removed from C3 division in the Home Office - as the Royal Commission on Criminal Justice recommended in 1993 - and given independent status. But now, even before its 10 other commissioners have been appointed, its credibility has been has appointed a senior mason to its

No one is questioning Sir Frederick Crawford's integrity. He may not even be aware of a ritual vow of the Holy Royal Arch pledging a bond even with "reprehensible" brothers, although as an office bearer in this elite order of masons this seems unlikely. The precise meaning of the vow is immaterial. What is wrong is that a body, which has been set up to restore confidence in the criminal justice system, has been given a chairman who is a member of an organisation which has been accused of secrecy and unaccountable influence.

Masonic membership within the police was widespread. But 10 years ago Sir Kenneth Newman, the then Metropolitan Commissioner, warned police masons because "a freemason's oath should resign from the Commission.

THE new commission to investigate | holds inevitably the implication that loyalty to fellow freemasons may supersede any other loyalty". His two successors have followed the same line. Many officers are believed to have left the order having read the signals but many should work. Yet, until our front page remain. Three years ago a delegate to story yesterday, expectations still the Police Federation conference tried unsuccessfully to get masonic member-ship declared incompatible with the office of constable. Less than a year ago the Police Complaints Authority (PCA) called on all officers who remained masons to declare their membership. In its annual report published last month, it referred to a number of complainants who "clearly feel that Freemasonry may have affected the way in which their cases were investigated". No PCA member is a mason. Both the Nolan Committee and the Commons Home Affairs select committee have said they will investigate masonic influence.

Against this background, the appointment of Sir Frederick seems incompre-hensible. Consider the difficult deciruined. Unbelievably, the Government | sions he is going to have to take. Only a small proportion of miscarriage claims s going to be upheld. It is crucial the body which rejects them is seen to be squeaky clean. It will have to withstand all manner of criticisms. No one doubts that Sir Frederick would administer the system with fairness and effectiveness. But every decision would be open to accusations that the masons had had a hand in it. He ought to have recognised his masonic membership was incompatible with his new post and resigned from his lodge on his appointment. But it is too late for that now. The very people whose trust he needed to win defence lawyers, civil rights groups, Opposition MPs — were signalling their disapproval of his appointment yesteday. They are right. His appointment is unacceptable. If he believes in restoring officers of the dangers of joining the faith in the criminal justice system, he



Impartial mediation is needed between Greeks and Turks

tion were facts of life in Cyprus two decades before they emerged in Bosnia. The longevity of the crisis, the repeated failure of mediation, and the achievement of a spurious stability, made this an issue which faded away for years at a time. Wednesday's killing on the Green line and the escalation of tension is emphatic proof to the contrary. Dormant tension may present a greater danger when it flares up - because no one is used to putting out the flames.

What happened on Wednesday could be a metaphor for the whole story since 1974. Both sides must share blame for the incident, just as their historical responsibility is inextricably mixed. Although we date the crisis back to the Turkish invasion, it must be recognised that over the previous decade the Greek Cypriots had been mainly responsible for inter-communal violence. The action of the Turkish forces, in firing on an unarmed Greek Cypriot as he lowered their flag, is quite disproportionate to the offence. But the original violation of the UN-controlled buffer zone last weekend by Greek Cypriot motorcyclists and demonstrators had only been feebly opposed by their government. This led to the first civilian death and in turn to Wednesday's second provocation. Those who organise such chauvinist displays, to applause in the Greek press, cannot plead justification in recent Turkish behavtour: they are sheer summer madness. For well over a decade, attempts to

ETHNIC cleansing and national parti- promote a meaningful dialogue have foundered in suspicion and intransigence on both sides. An agreed formula exists on paper: Cyprus should become a federation of two entities, both of which would have devolved powers. Behind the shared words lie conflicting goals. The Turkish side emphasises the bi-zonal character of such an arrange ment, and envisages a loose association amounting to confederation, while the Greek side seeks a strong central government. Beyond this divergence stretches a string of difficult issues: the percentage of land to be occupied by the Turkish Cypriots, the fate of missing persons, the return of refugees - and now future relations with the European Union. Richard Holbrooke's peace-making effort in January soon ran into the ground. The current effort by Sir David Hannay seems equally doomed: he is reduced to stating the obvious: "the real

problem is a lack of trust. Over the years, Western policy on Cyprus has shown a fitful and not always consistent concern. Little interest was shown when it might have been possible to defend the island's unity. Turkey was treated with indulgence because of its frontier role in cold war containment. Recently the Greek case has attracted more sympathy from the EU countries. The task must be to mediate impartially and to strengthen the UN position on the Green line. There are no radical solutions, only an urgent need to work out practical ways of living together in the same house.

#### A gently swelling population

Although we're lean and lithe by American standards

DROP THAT spoon! Throw away those | Poor diet is only part of the problem; puddings, pastries and ples, and don't lack of exercise is important. The even think of asking for seconds. As if | Health Education Authority is fighting fat cats weren't bad enough, we're rap- a rearguard action to get people off the idly becoming a nation of porkers. Offi- couch and onto bikes, but it is quite a cial figures show that 13 per cent of task. The army complains that it inmen and 16 per cent of women in creasingly has to turn away would-be Britain are obese, double the 1987 numbers. If this goes on, by 2005 the seriously-big count will claim one quarter shows that one third of men. and two

of the population. It could be worse than that. Since 1987 there have been a string of health we're skinny by American standards; scares to take the edge off the appetite. half the US population is obese and on notably eggs (salmonella), poultry (listeria), cheese (listeria again), voghurt (botulism), and of course beef, sheep, and now lamb's mince (BSE). The growth in obesity would be welcomed as the triumph of the plucky guzzler than President Clinton, but with less over adversity, were it not that being so heavy can lead to heart disease, stroke, diabetes, high blood pressure, osteopo-

squaddies because they are out of shape, and the HEA's own research thirds of women, cannot "walk up a slight slope at a reasonable pace." Still, present trends, the entire population could be so by 2030. The younger generation is the biggest problem. Take the race to the White House: at 73, Bob Dole is almost a quarter of a century older body fat, cholesterol and lower blood pressure, his life expectancy is only 11 years less than the president. So much rosis, depression... the list goes on, for motherhood and apple pie.



Letters to the Editor

#### essons in the A-level results

examiner in English for over 20 years. In the furore over increasingly good A Level results (Scramble after A level record, August 15). ome important points have neen ignored.

Firstly, there are fewer very poor candidates. In the 1970s and 80s there were fremently candidates who did little more than write their names on the paper. In recent years, financial restraints and awareness of the impor-tance of conscientious teaching have led to far fewer can-didates being entered for the examinations who stand no chance of passing. This at least partly explains the im-

provement in pass rates. Secondly, examiners have been taught to use the whole mark range. Pull marks were once quite rare. Now an ex aminer is expected to reward appropriately an 18-year-old who has achieved the best that can be reasonably ex-pected under examination cannot find any explanation conditions. This has resulted | for an improvement in A level | Gillian Shepherd, the Educa-

Ban and bluff

TEPHEN Young (India

Oscuppers test ban treaty, August 15) is correct when he

argues that a test ban treaty will not be concluded this year

unless the nuclear powers find the political will to offer con-

structive and realistic solu-

nons to the deadlock that cur-

Britain has a particular responsibility. It was the intransi-

gence of the present Govern-

ent which helped to produc

the current deadlock. Britain's

insistence that India. amongs

others, must sign up for the treaty before it comes into

force was unprecedented, and opposed by the great majority

of observers, including th

Labour Party: as well as Secu

rity Council members France

if India really is committee

to achieving a truly verifiable

and effective comprehensive test ban treaty, it is possible

that a series of pledges by all

five nuclear powers could pro-vide the breakthrough that is so desperately needed. These could include a joint and ex-

olicit declaration by all five

nuclear powers to the effect that they have no intentions of

esting again, even without

test ban treaty. This would ef-fectively call India's bluff and

ould place a strong onus on

nake similar commitments

Britain can take the lead in

oushing for a treaty which is

very much in our national se-

curity interest. The Govern-

ment's attitude towards the

disarmament process threat

ens to undermine the whole

non-proliferation system on

which British, and ultimately

global, security depends.

Tony Lloyd MP.

London SW1A OAA

india not to test.

and the US.

rently exists at Geneva.

universities, who rarely give marks above 75 per cent, have

yet to learn. Finally, although to gain an E grade is an achievement, it is, and always has been, a limited one. Some universi-ties nowadays may be willing to accept candidates with two E grades but that is surely a measure of their own desperation rather than proof of a decline in the ability of the Jean Svans.

26 Alpraham Crescent. Upton, Chester CH2 1QX.

THANK you to Tony Hig-gins (Why A-level students are doing so well. August 15) for expressing the views of thousands of 18-yearolds who like me have just received their A level results. Once again, our efforts are being undermined by the

through my exams with good results and schieved a place at university I am under-standably pleased with my-self. The carping of these eternal sceptics serves no point but to rubbish our success.

which should surely be cele brated. Has it occurred to anyone that, knowing the dif-ficulty of finding jobs. A level students are actually working harder? Or has it been considered that our teachers are doing their jobs better than

ever? Louise Finer. 15 Southdown Road,

Harpenden, Herts AL5 LPD. WAS astonished to read (A level success may bring shake up, August 14) that some Government Ministers were considering a manifesto pledge to change the examina-tion board system after a further sharp improvement in the A level pass rate. At least

IF ANY KNOW

CAUSE OF TUST

IMPEDIMENT

MAN SHOULD

NOTPROVOUNCE

IMPEDIMENT:

THE WORD.

doing that afternoon? Any 20-

verment that really cared about the horrendous conse-

quences of our high divorce rate, for the family and soci-

ety generally, ought to be looking for ways not to facili-

tate marriage to the point

where it becomes a joke but

rather to make it harder to

enter into (as well as more fi-

nancially advantageous). You

cannot cheapen the act of

commitment without encour

London N1 L.J.J.

HAVE been an A Level in a fairer spread of marks examiner in English for and more accurate results. The lesson of this is one that through my exams with good where it is due in saying: "It where it is due in saying. "It is about time these doom and gloom merchants shut up and recognised the achievements of the candidates, and of the parents and teachers who have supported them." A Welsh Office document, A

> examination performances. has set within its targets for the year 2000 the expectation that by age 21, 60 per cent of young people would have achieved two A levels, an ad-vance GNVQ or an NVQ level 3. Gillian Shepherd's colleagues have helped to set those targets, and yet when teachers bring schools' performances closer to those aims those very ministers begrudge them. Do they not read their own documents? James P Hynes.

Bright Future, in emphasis-ing improvements in schools

The Alun Comprehensive

School, 55 Ffordd Pentre,

#### Trustee ethics

HE report in Money Guardian (Charities set to give investments ethical dileading. The courts have made it plain that trustees are justified in taking into account ethical as well as financial investment principles only when the proposed investments are contrary to the objects of the charity, unacceptable to the beneficiaries. or might result in reduced donations or otherwise hamper

the work of the charity. The assertion in your report that "trustees have a right to take ethical considerations into account even when this could be financially detrimental to the charity" applies only when the consideration of a particular investment is clearly inconsistent with the objects of a charity. For example the trustees of a temper ance charity would not be expected to consider investr in a brewery. Any charity trustee following your advice in other circumstances may be acting in breach of trust In all other cases the trust es may only exclude the inestment from consideration if this would result in no significant financial detrimer

R J Fries. Chief Charities Commissioner Charity Commission, 57-60 Haymarket, London SW1Y 4QX.

to the charity.

#### The meaning of stress

GERRY Maione, Minister for Health, asks: "What's stress?" (Guardian Health, August 18). I will tell him.

Stress is watching your husband who is suffering from multi-infarct dementia weep and beg to be taken "out of this dreadful place" (an NHS hospital), seeing him become ever weaker and more agitated and confused as he is nunted from one bed to another in a surgical ward be-cause there is no bed available elsewhere, knowing that he is gradually starving to death since the nurses have no time to persuade him or help him to sat, knowing too that he can't handle his asthma inhalers properly

without assistance. Stress is never being able to speak to the doctor in charge of the case, getting no help from Social Services who are forever about to "assess" eeds but never managing to do so, and hence being afraid to bring your husband home in case you can't cope on your

Stress is trying to find a short notice, wondering how long one can afford £360 a week and still keep one's own

home going. Stress is watching your husband die, after six days in a nursing home, following a severe asthma attack, and feeling that you had somehow abandoned him to this fate.

0

M

H

Stress is the agony of bereavement Peggy Wibberley. 7 Upper Bridge Street. Wye, Ashford, Kent TN25 5AW.

#### Demonisation

CURRENT Tory "scare" propaganda against Labour is rationalised by an (anonymous) Conservative spokesman on the grounds that "The advert is not intended to appeal to the sneer-ing so-called intellectuals of Islington" (Church criticises Pory 'demon Blair' ads. August 13). We've heard this efore, from Adolf Hitler, in

Mein Kampf:
"The more modest the scientific tenor of this propa-ganda and the more it is gamba and the more it is addressed exclusively to pub-lic sentiment the more deci-sive its success. This is the best tast of the value of a pro-paganda, and not the approbation of a small group of intelectuals and artistic people. Professor Edgar Wilson. 29 Heath End Road, Alsager, Stoke-on-Trent, Staffs ST7 2SQ.

#### parliamentary buffoonery have been slipped through by aging people to withdraw from it when the going gets virtue of a private membe rough. David Gladstone. bill without proper debate? What were all the guardians

Risks of marrying in haste

YOU ARE right to poke fun at the new wedding "vows" (In quickness and in

health, August 15). I find it bizarre that politicians,

Churchmen and, yes, the media argue interminably

for married couples to get div

orced without apparently ask-

ing themselves whether it may not be too easy to get married in the first place. How can this latest piece of

of the sanctity of marriage

In conflict over prevention ONATHAN Eyal (Conflict | societies through carefully tar of interest, August 12) pre-sents conflict prevention as a

The Labour Party has al-ready called on each of the nuclear weapons states to issue regular reports outlining what proposition that is bound to fall victim to the myopic for-eign policies of nation-states. teps they are taking to move the disarmament process for-ward. Labour has committed For those who are trying to build support for the proposiitself in government not to detion, the arguments are de ploy more nucler warheads on Trident than on Polaris, and pressingly familiar. Equally familiar is the automatic assumption that conflict preven the present Government and the other nuclear states should tion implies crisis mediation

and troop deployments.
Whilst troops and shuttle di-plomacy can be of vital importance, their use indicates that a conflict prevention policy is already close to failure, since any such policy should take a long-term approach that is designed to prevent potential tensions from escalating into

The essence of a long-term

geted development assistance, trade relationships, cultural agingly, the European Com-mission has acknowledged this in a recent communication on conflicts in Africa. It is in the commercial and political interests of Western nations to support the creation of stable societies that can accommodate change. By high-lighting the costs of emergency aid and the trade and investment lost to conflicts. political will may yet be galvanised behind a coherent strat-

egy to prevent wars. There is much still to be done to convince governments of the need to act but the prospects are not as bleak as Mr Eyal suggests. Tim Hancock. Saferworld

approach lies in addressing 34 Alfred Place, the root causes of instability in London WCIE 7DP.

#### Hidden meaning in a string of numbers

HR reason that telephone numbers are so long here (Letters August 15) is that the UK uses structured meaningful numbering. This inevitable creates volumes of redundant numbers. For example, areas of small population have their own dialling codes even though much of their capacity will never be used. Non-significant numbering, in which groups of

much more efficient. Sorting | out what the number identifies is then done where it should be: not in the number but in a computer.
Andrew Osborne.

Article Number Association, 11 Kingsway, London WC2B 6AR.

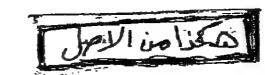
T IS interesting to see one of the more persistent myths resurface in Guardian. Mike London SE3: OBZ.

Clutten's claim about the US's 10-digit telephone number compared to the UK's 11-digit numbers fails to recognise that the US commonly omits the longdistance access number (1 in the US, 0 in the UK). A New York number of 1-213 123 4567 has the same number of digits as London's 0171 123 4567. Howell Huws. 122 Fawnbrake Avenue.

#### A Country Diary ........................

AUSTRIA: The comedy high | On the plateau which folpoint of this year's fact-finding mission on bicycles down the Danube cycle track from Passau to Vienna would have to be my accidental early morning turn out of the City of Linz fire brigade. In the subterranean gloom of the hotel garage and seeking to open the door for an early start I pressed the wrong, red button with an unfortunate automated result. That apart, the five day ride down the track, which hugs the bank of the Danube (grey green rather than blue) was a great success. Going gently down-hill. 40 miles a day is not excessive. From Passau the river runs through high wooded hills. The massive barges, which can take cargo from Hungary to the Rhine, manoeuvred carefully round the acute bend at Schlogen. We passed through Mauthau sen and stopped there for coffee. Fifty years on from the borror of its infamy as a concentration camp site. the most prominent commercial occupier of the village is Mc-Donalds, the fast food chain

lowed, the onion bulb domes atop the white country churches of Hapsburg Cathol icism dotted the well-farmed landscape. Sunflowers and maize were the dominant crops at this level hefore we dropped to the height at which the vine becomes cultivable. Behind a big stand of maize a deer raced to seclusion as our cycles came quietly along the track. No fences delineate this arable land, the crops run into each other with only narrow soil margins. Livestock were on summer pasture high on the surrounding hills and none at all were to be seen from the track beside the river. The most delightful stretch was the morning ride from Melk to Krems — through the terraced vineyards of Austria's best known riesling area. with swallows wheeling overhead. The grapes were a long way from the vintage but the apricots were at their peak and boxes of them were being assembled at the roadside by groups of family pickers. COLIN LUCKHURST



of-love boy return

N the midst of so troubled a summer, it is reasssuring to note that the Royal Mail's managing director is on top of things. Richard Dykes went on BBC1's breakfast programme yesterday to discuss the strikes, and revealed himself to be not only an expert on but also a great fan of the postal ser-vice which, he announced, goes back to Henry VIII and the Penny Black". (It would be churlish, in the face of such enthusiasm, to point out that Henry died in 1547, about 300 years before the Penny Black appeared.)

ITH the football season beginning tomorrow, I am intrigued to note that the name of American brewer Coors will again appear on the shirts of Chelsea, the club which, in the great Rund Gullit, has just be-come the first in the top league to employ a black manager. By the way, in 1984 company owner Wilremarked that it was obvious that blacks lack "the intellectual capacity to

- Corner

TO I NESSER BUS

STONISHMENT strikes New Labour. On Wednesday night, Blairite high flier Fraser Kemp as a parliamentary from Millbank Tower invaded the Marquis of Granby, a Westminster pub. Patsy Prescott was already there, doing a bit of morale boosting, when suddenly to the amazement of all - in walked Mandy Mandelson, flanked by Dolly Draper on one side and Oofy Wegg-Process on the other. "No Prosser on the other. No one could believe it," says a source. "Mandy in a pub? It's like seeing Dracula at Midnight Mass." He then stood around doing the Clinton double-handed shake for a bit, before taking Paul Richards (author of that embarrassing Fa-bian pamphlet on trimming the monarchy) outside for "a little chat". Speculation as to what brought Mandy there centres on Mr Pres-cott's presence. "With Tony away, they both want to look like the one filling the gap." says the source.
"Even so, Mandy in a pub... would you believe it?"

EANWHILE, in a un-wonted attack of paranoia, New Labour refuses to be involved in a Panorama on the spin doctors, which BBC1 intends to broadcast during the conference season. The party's own term for this non-cooperation is "passive resistance". It is unclear thus far who has ome up with so resonant a phrase. It could be David Hill, the media man. Then again, the author of passive resistance could well be Mandhi Mandelson.

allelujah! In America, the Church of Kurt Cobain in Oregon has celebrated its first service. The 30-strong congregation was led by "Pastor "Jim Dillon, a publish-ing executive, so Company magazine reports, while the innate conventionality of the occasion was underlined when worshippers were advised not to take drugs or commit suicide.

IT'S A ROUNDABOUT FOR THE NEW CHARIOTWAY.



# One-way street in downtown US

#### Commentary

#### Peter Preston

IME to get serious.
We've had the wreetling silver medallist
from Atlanta. We've had blonde ex-Supermodel, chat-show hostess and mother of five, Kim Alexis. We've had Miss America 1995. Now the most formida-ble political intelligence of the last two decades has a few words for the Republican

convention.

James A Baker III helped
Gerald Ford to survive when the presidency came calling in crisis. Essentially, Jim Baker invented George Bush and his campaignings. Jim Baker rescued Ronald Reagan from disaster as White House Chief of Staff.
He served President Bush as
a notably effective Secretary
of State. Jim Baker, on record
or experience or potential ought to be the next president himself. Instead he has five minutes to talk about foreign

policy. Baker does his best. He signs up for Star Wars and gets his cheers slamming the folly of "letting our American"

foreign policy — "Gullible's Travels" — has a rare edge: and John Major must love Baker's scorn for presidents who dabble and sup with the IRA. It would be great if any-body was listening. But the oddy was nstening, But the delegates, as always, are yacking away and picking their noses. Foreign affairs? Total Yawnsville, man.

What is it that makes some men leaders of the United States and some, far brighter men mere kings of the backroom? Baker is a decent, clipped speaker better than George Bush, flapping plaintively away. He tells jokes better than George Ford. But there is absolutely no convention wegie to him. He won't tion magic to him. He won't quite demean himself.

Jim Baker may have wanted to be the next president: but not enough to turn himself into a different breed of political creature. He couldn't do the folksy stuff about his Mom and Dad without wincing inside. He fades from view as Elizabeth Dole begins the This Is Bob's Life segment designed, at last, to turn her husband into a human being. Bob goes to visit Liddy's mother for the

forces wear UN uniforms". tween what Jim can't be and But his scathing account of what Bob must be seems to the early Clinton efforts at me to lie at the heart of San Diego. The convention itself, even by modern British stan-dards, has been a farce. No visible debates; endless hoop-la; a succession of Identikit dignitaries reading the same tight script, constant use of video testimony from "ordinary people" far away to put the political mouths.

Tony Blair, you feel, must be somewhere at the back there, taking notes. Clare Short only on a video you can pre-edit? This is the Wal-worth Road Dream.

But the media circus — the avid in relentless pursuit of the vapid — deserves to be understood as well gagged and goggled over. The men in the backroom, doing the job Jim used to do, are utterly professional. It isn't a matter of confected patriotism; though there is plenty of that around. The basic job is burnishing the myth of America which is not a myth in most American minds.

This (compare and contrast Great Britain) is a genuinely patriotic country. It believes and wallows in national pride. It feels, here and now. that it has much to be proud first time, and she sees him about it wears its heart on its with a towel over his shraphare have a problem," he says. "Bob," says mum, "that's no problem. That is a badge of honour." The difference be-

mouth or Blackpool have an innocent reality to them in

California. There have, this week. been reports of watching Tory spin doctors in the shadows. Not sighted personally, but I'm sure they're around. Can the message of family and simple morality and tax cuts be burnished for British consumption? Mr Major and Mr Blair would seem to be dancing on

the same tiny stage.
But messages, unlike media techniques, are much more difficult to export. Most of them are marked Only In America. And the insularity is all-embracing. We have had perhaps 20 minutes on lands beyond the US in four days of constant talk. Most of that has been about China, Cuba — and a North Korea with a missile which could reach Honolulu. Only Baker had a sentence which con-firmed Britain's continuing existence. That isn't shock-

Tony Blair, you feel, must be there. taking notes. Clare Short only on a video you can pre-

edit? The Walworth Road Dream ing: it is merely a description of the way things are. It de-

fines the American mood. It also, in turn, limits London relevance. They have ceased to care about us, because the cold war is over and eyes are turned inwards. We, too. have ceased to care so much about them, because Europe is a train ride away. Any thought that Washington offers some substitute glory is tosh. Virtual irrelevance is

a two-way street. The Republicans are the

nasty party, with some par-ticularly nasty manifesto words about juvenile crime and immigration. They haven't turned suddenly nice because of all the smiles in San Diego. The rift on abortion runs viscerally deep. To that extent, I hope they go on to lose in November. They probably will. Mr Dole, give or take the occasional decent speech, is not

an electrifying campaigner. He is also an old man: the war he was a hero in ended 51 years ago, the new millenium would dawn uneasily with a 77-year-old in the Oval Office. His candidacy was an accident, a ritual donation of seniority after the success of the mid-term elections. The task of turning him into a warmer, younger visionary will probably be a marketing

challenge too far:
But if he loses, it will be because Mr Clinton has reborn himself as a younger born himself as a younger version of a Republican President Chicago, in a couple of weeks, won't offer any great differences of style or defining differences of policy. Will tax cuts unhinge him? Will sleaze grease his slipway? Will the buoyancy of the economy fade? economy fade? Clinton would have no dif-

ficulty with the question Jim Baker flunked. He is the campaigner incarnate. It is what he does. If the Republicans have had a good TV show in San Diego, the Democrats will make Chicago into Hollywood. Hillary, after Liddy Dole, will get a speaking part. But Warren Christopher? The tiny, wizened Secretary of State may, I suppose, get three minutes between

Whoopi Goldberg and the women's softball gold medallists.

But the echoes from the Republicans will be eerie: echoes from a foreign country of which we know country of which we know much but understand very little. And brothers, it's

# **Clare Short** her tune



heard us. "So. Sally can't wait. She knows it's too late" we bellowed, totally without songsheets. "She da di di da-a-at" You've got to hand it to Noel and Liam: classic rock choruses don't come more memorable than their most famous song, whose name I

As you've probably guessed by now. I'm talking Knel-worth and I'm talking last weekend. Knebworth! The name has a magical ring to it. the "Kneb" very nearly rhyming with "Fab", and the "Worth" not just rhyming with "Worth" but actually being "Worth", thus indicating that, as festivals go, this one is always really worth it - just so long as there's not a

crap band playing. My first Knebworth was the Floyd, back in '77, on their Money. It's A Crime tour. which grossed a record 6 mil-lion worldwide, excluding onsite merchandising such as sales of special Punk Floyd Money, It's A Crime pound notes (£1.50) and We Don't Need No Education sweat-shirts (£2.50, or £3.50 for the unemployed). It was at a time when the Labour Party was just beginning to realise the value of reaching out to touch the young, so Fred Mulley and Denis Howell were deputed by Jim Callaghan to "spread the word" on a special fact-find-ing mission of Knebworth. The two of them were welcomed onstage by the Floyd and the rest is history: to background music by Waters and Gilmour and a full lightshow with state-of-the-art psy-chedelic bubbles, Mulley read out a two-hour draft discussion document on the future of the Common Fisheries Pol-

Flash forward to 1983, when the Labour Party and the nation's rock musicians cemented their ties with the formation of Red Wedge. I am proud to say that my own public relations company, Bel and Frendz, handled all the publicity for this historical grouping, and at its launch at the House of Commons, Roy Hattersley and I on doublekazoo accompanied Billy Bragg as he sang. "England really needs Michael Foot.' We don't care whether he wears a donkey jacket or a suit/ He'll certainly share out the loct/ Let's give Thatcher the boot/

exciting gig the Floyd have

we'll root. Rat-a-tat-tat. Brother, Tooty-toot-toot." Pow-erful stuff. Needless to add. this passionate protest song was an overnight success, ris-ing to number 61 in the charts and contributing much to en-abling the Labour Party to sail into another valuable period on the Opposition benches vir-tually unchallenged.

ELIEVE me, we sang our guts our. That's me, bara and ken, and up to half a million others. You should've heard us. "So, Sally can't wait, She knows to the land to the land to breathe new life into Brotpip and new life into New Labour My good friend, the lovely, lovely Clare Short, turned me on to turned me on the land to be short. biggest fans, and has issued a characteristically brave and forthright press release to cor-rect any impression that she is not. "My earlier statement that Oasis are 'a relentlessly dreary old band of copy cats and Johnny One-Notes' las been subject to wilful mismterpretation by the Conservative media," she states "I have the greatest respect and admiration for Gasts, particu-larly their brilliant song. I which they will begin writing

next year."

And that's how we in New Labour came to make the incredible pilgrimage to Kneb-worth last weekend. If Oasis can win over the hearts and minds of the British people, then so can New Labour and we wanted to find out exactly how to go about it. As Deputy Leader, John Prescott took centre-stage in our factfinding mission He has, of course, had experience in the field. In the early 1970s he was Deputy Leader of Slade under Noddy Holder, from whom he learnt the need for strict discipline and consistency. Under Noddy's influence. John came to appreciate the benefits of collaboration: it was Noddy who transformed John's original song, Cum On Feel The Noze into something with a little more "street-cred", and the cameras still sometimes pick out the hint of glitter under John's eyes as he leads the singing of the Red Flag at Party Conference.

PETER Mandelson wrapped up well for Knebworth: be gets a little chilly ever since he lent closed; people have been of the Common Fisheries Pol-known to move house to fall icy. It proved to be the most lagher for use as a pair of winter eyebrows. The Follets made great efforts to be entirely democratic by hiring an extra coach for their house-hold staff, the price of their tickets to be set against the completion of the requisite number of kitchen chores. And Clare, of course, sang her guts out, only once or twice having to alter her lyrics after a swift but gentle kick in the shins from Peter. "So, Sally can't wait. She knows it's too late. In fact, it's not too late, and actually I wholly agree with Sally that she can wait as long as she likes, da da di da-a-a," she crooned. Magic. Da da di da-a-a! That's a vi-sion of New Labour that, just It's the working class for who | this once, we can all share.

# The number of children available for adoption is falling steadily in the wake of contraception and increased abortion. **Francine Stock** examines the implications

# **Adoption marathons**

OETUS ranching is unpleasant. These bizarre cases of un-born babies exposed to publicity and up for sponsorship, with the implication that maternity is a means to fame and wealth, are repugnant. Their exploitstion — by the parents, the papers, the various factions raised ugly questions about the motives for having

Then came the inquest as to how a doctor might have prescribed fertility drugs to a woman whose personal life has been depicted as a cross between Brookside and the Borgias. Whether or not Ms Allwood and Mr Hudson constituted an "appropriately in-vestigated couple" according to the Royal College of Obste-tricians and Gynaecologists' guidelines on fertility treatment became the talking point. But if the circumstances and the numbers involved are unusual, the basic premise is not. Around 7,000 women receive donor insem nation annually, 19,000 have TVF and tens of thousands more (no one has the exact figure since ovulation induction is not regulated) are pre-scribed fertility drugs. Even given the relatively low success rate of these treatments, that's a lot of babies. These statistics must have a

stark poignancy for the people who compete in the marathon obstacle race to adopt a baby. The rate of adoptions is falling steadily. In 1976 over 17,000 children were adopted, 3,800 of them bables aged less than one year. The latest available figyear. The latest available fig-ures show adoptions down to under 7,000 — of which around half were adoptions by step-parents. Only 400 habies under one year old went to "stranger" families. The market mechanism of adoption is well-rehearsed. Abortion and contraception have limited the supply of surrendered babies. Most people would prefer to adopt babies — it's simpler all — although plenty are



don't need or want adoption. Those who do may well have very special emotional and physical needs, in other words they have been so abused or traumatised that prepared to take on an older they can only be settled with child. But that process is far exceptional adoptive parents.

thousands who are desperate to care for a child. The whole thrust of the adoption system is that it is not a service for childless couples, in the way that fertility treatment is. The welfare of the child is social worker presents his or than a cycle of Men the crux of the adoption con. her report, the would-be a boost of Pregnyl?

from straightforward. Of the 18's for that reason that the 18's for that reason that the 29,000 children in local authority residential care, many and cruelly disappointing to adoption bill which aims to cut some of the red tape, but organisations that support prospective adoptive parents still point to shortcomings in the system of assessing pro-spective parents. When the

breaking faith with the gen-eral view of employers that long hours and low pay were the surest way to eco-nomic success. Today, the

long-hours/low-pay syn-

drome has returned as con-

ventional wisdom. Ford was

willing to be a peternalist

employer, but in general,

unions have found employ-ers unsympathetic to de-mands for reducing work-

what basis they are being judged. It is heart-breakingly tough. Many couples are not even assessed by local au-thorities as there is no suit-able child available at present. Many waiting-lists are within a local-authority area Painful or not, openness is

parents may have no idea on

the mantra of the adoption system. Who you are, where you came from, whom you can trust for love and care -these are the essentials that every adopted child should be able to count on. By contrast, mystery is inevitable with some forms of assisted reproduction. Was Mr Hudson aware of Ms Allwood's intention of turbo-charged concep-tion? Who cares, except that it illustrates how multi-layered the getting of children now is, and the questions that lie ahead. Why can't I know who my donor daddy or nummy was? Exactly when (and where) was I conceived? How long did I spend in the freezer? How many of us were there?

Most parents who conceive through assisted reproduc-tion do treasure their offspring. Strange, though, that society still seems to accord greater importance to the basic human desire to repro-duce and extend the blood line than to the commitmen to nurture. Nothing new there, maybe, but what has changed is family structure.
Children may well be closer
to a "stranger" than to a natural parent. Those adoption
statistics showing that half of all adoptions these days are by step-parents formalise second or subsequent mar-riages into parenthood, and demonstrate a commitment to children that are not biologically related. In its clear-eved realism, adoption seems sometimes a model version of parenthood, excelling where nature falls short. But we will persist in thinking that nature, however chaotic, how-ever cruel, is best. After all, what could be more natural than a cycle of Metrodin with

government level about

reducing working time to

but the British government has vetoed all efforts to

make this a Europe-wide

Indeed, all European

countries, with the excep-

tion of the UK, have laws

governing minimum holi-day entitlement ranging

from five to six weeks. As

Europe's tourist, leisure

and sports industries con-

tinue to grow in size the

memory of M and Mme Du-

pont - the French man and

woman in the street - tak-

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# Getting paid to do nothing

**Denis MacShane** celebrates the great European summer holiday

sion. In the summer of 1936, the Popular Front govern-ment voted the world's first legislation for a fornight's paid holiday a year. The workers of France and their families, rubbing their eyes with disbelief and unsure how long such generosity would last, jumped on to their motor-bikes, their tandems, and into the backs of lorries and headed for the sea, the mountains, and the countryside of France.

SixTy years ago the beaches of France decades later France and the rest of Europe defy the the rest of Europe defy the conventional wisdom of America and Asia that a good break in the working year is something the global economy can do without. Yet bit by bit, the European concept may be spreading. The Chinese government has recently introduced a 5-day week for public-sector employees, while in Japan the government has told firms to reduce annual

sional) workers now put in. Even in the US — where a week's holiday in the summer is the most an execu-tive dares to take if he or she wants to find the job open upon return — is an increasing understanding that excessive working time no longer makes sense. President Clinton has just passed a law permitting workers to take time off instead of being paid extra cash when they work long hours, as well as legislation

ing time or longer holidays. in favour of parental leave. In fact it was Henry Ford who decided to put his employees on a 5-day week and pay them 35 a day 20 years before the French law on

bosses who are to blame. Employees in the Peugeot factory at Coventry recently went on strike be-cause their French managers wanted to shut down the plant in August to coincide with the French holidays. have always opted for over-time rather than time off.

Alas, it is not just the Low-paid British workers

ing their first-ever paid holidays 60 years ago de-serves to be commemorated by everyone who thinks there is more to life than

clocking in for work. ea, the mountains, and the ountryside of France.

Thus the European sum
Thus

Guy Burch writes: Obituaries of Ossie Clark (obituary August 91 focused on his "sad

decline". To those of us who met him after his most successful years this is not the full story. I met Ossie in 1981, through Nick Balaban who was until his death two years ago the great love of Ossie's

life, after his wife Celia Birtwell They had met at the Sombrero club in Kansington, where Nick worked as a har-man. With Ossie's support, Nick was soon studying at

Chelsea School of Art, they lived together in a loaned

house, where Ossie's eccentric

flair had oriental rugs and

Lalique glass salvaged from the Portobello market fighting for space with a juke box.

Just as Ossie could recognise a beautiful item hidden in

a mass of rubbish in a junk

stall or the potential in some

thing seemingly devoid of worth, so it was with the young men he met. Many of

the young stars of the 1980s

passed through his life (and through his famous Pepysian

diaries), inspired by Ossie's determination to be himself whatever the consequences

and make something from nothing — if nothing was all

that was available. Ossie transformed the mundane

nto a fairy-tale: a plank in a

skip that turned out to be rose

wood and fitted his intended

use without cutting, or So-

branie cigarette packets trans-

formed over many months into an intricate mosaic inlay

for his Buddhist shrine. "Look

darling, isn't it fabulous," he would say. It is difficult not to think of Ossie, not Lynne

Franks, as the true inspira-tion for Edina Monsoon.

life was happy after his fash-ion downfall: his break-up

with Nick in the mid-1980s

precipitated a dreadful depres-sion. But it would also be sad

who was optimism and fun

incarnate, who could cut a

dress for Cinderella freehand whilst drunk on champagne at 2am, was remembered only as

a broken butterfly. He continued to inspire as he fluttered his bruised wings trying to fly

It would be wrong to say his

# Orchestral mysteries

view as the Romanian conductor, Sergiu Celibidache, who has died aged 84. Was he one of the great conductors of our

His reluctance to appear at all, and then only with a pronii, and then only with a pro-hibitive number of rchearsals, helped to add to the mystery. His concerts, when they were finally scheduled, offered performances of supreme refinement, but al-most always his exaggeratedly slow speeds made them seem like another rehearsal. Certainly, he was a percep rive, if erratic, musician, and personal magnetism, whether in controlling players or whole audiences. Yet his vi-

hard to take his interpretait is perhaps as well that he beginning of his career, but rarely do they convey the project in concert, even those so, he could be a sensitive and

sion, as a rule, was so eccen-

trically personal that it was

EW musicians have provided he admired the solo-prompted such a wide divergence of nist. Michelangeli, that he "is the greatest conductor, even though he plays the piano". Praise of his colleagues was generally limited to those safely in the past, such as Felix Weingartner and Wilhelm Furtwängler. Of Tosca-nini he said: "If music were

> He used to sav that the better the orchestra, the more rehearsals he wanted

just notes, he would have been superb. Born in Rome the son of a Romanian officer, Celibifessor and conductor whom he had beard on radio. He 1936, and on almost no income managed to continue studying there through the whole

He studied philosophy well as music, and his big break came when he won a Berlin Radio conducting competition. After the war, with many German conductors undergoing de Nazification. he quickly benefited. In 1945, the year he completed his studies, he was welcomed as principal conductor of the Berlin Philharmonic, and mained with the orchestra remained with the orcnesu until Furtwängler resume his old position in 1952. He liked to say that he insisted on copious rehearsal, not for the players to learn to play but for him to learn to conduct. In 1948 he shared the orchestra's tour of the United States with Furtwangler, and he gained a reputation outside Germany too, appearing in London with the London

Then in 1952, whether or not edged out of his Berlin dache claimed not to have post, he was prompted by learnt to speak until he was strictures from his old profes-It is perhaps as well that he was so opposed to making records There are more of them than he would have bucharest he sent some of his time, and ever after that restricted his concerts in the made at the compositions to a Berlin pro-He gave a few concerts in London in 1962, and in 1978 was invited back to conduct the London Symphony Orchestra, when the manage-ment was enthusiastic

Philharmonic.



Sergiu Celibidache . . . no doubt about his personal magnetism in controlling players

mand for six rehearsals for

each concert.

They were memorable but eccentric events, which divided opinion sharply. As he explained at the time, the better the orchestra, the more rehearsals he wanted. With poor players there were only limited possibilities, he felt — "forte, mezzoforte, and then he scratches" - where, with a good orchestra, he wanted to ensure that every member had a panoramic vision over

many of them likening it to playing chamber music. He revealed himself as the most delicate colourist, acutely aware of acoustics and soundbalance, but tending too readily to languish in slow

In his later career, Celibidache held permanent posts in Munich. Stuttgart and

Certainly, the results with the LSO bore witness to the fact that the players felt they were listening to each other more keenly than usual. The surfact that the players felt they were listening to each other man and a living legend, he more of his time to verbal as many of them. was personally such a forthcoming communicator. I remember when, after a gruelling day involving six hours of rehearsal with the orches-tra, he addressed the LSO Club for two whole hours. exuding charm in an ex tended quick-fire session, full

of sharp one-liners. That performance hardly

cation Like Furtwangler, he kept his hand in as a com-

Sergiu Celibidache, conductor born June 26, 1912; died August

tors giving a cycle of high rates of growth followed by

was perhaps his major contri

bution to economic thought.

not as much as he would have liked. An aunt was a painter

she could not support herself

But he always found time for

Goodwin also painted, but

poser. His works include four symphonies and a Requiem. Edward Greenfield

tics. The request was not | a cycle, but inter-related fac-

#### and the family vetoed his youthful ambition because Birthdays

it and his abstract canvases are properly in demand, Some hang on the walls of the fac-Bruce Beresford, film director, 56; Rt Rev Ronald Bowlby, former Bishop of ulty building at Cambridge While at Cambridge in lived Southwark. MOW champion. in a thatched cottage with his 70; Ann Chant, chief executive, Child Support Agency, 51; Sir Philip Dowson, archiwife, Jacqueline, whom he After his appointment to tect, 72; George Galloway. Labour MP, 42; Sir David Stena, he spent the academic year in the congenial atmo-sphere of the city. Goodwin Gillmore, former permanent was extremely productive; stimulated and admired by under-secretary, Foreign Office, 62; Eydie Gorme, his colleagues. Italy was the singer, 64; Katharine Hamplace for him to live and to nett. fashion designer, 49; Trever McDa Vernon Ciccione), rock singer out structures and left the 38: Sir Donald Maitland chairman. Health Education Authority, 74; Tom Maschler, publisher, 63; 2Jeff Thomson. cricketer, 46: Sir Geoffrey Warnock, philosopher, 73; Franz Welser-Möst, musical director, London Philhar-monic, 36; Prof Brian Woledge, scholar of French lan-

#### Professor Richard Goodwin

# Economist who despised money



Richard Goodwin. Renaissance man . . . at home in Siena

who has died aged 83, was an economist who had three fore the second world war (including a spell lecturing in physics, which he had taught nimself); at Cambridge as fellow (and wine steward) of Peterhouse and university reader: and a splendid metamorphosis in Siena from 1980 as professor of economic science (the first non-Italian to hold such a post).

Thoughts developed over the years came together in Goodwin's grand synthesis: his vision of the nature of capitalist development. His lectures on the subject given at Siena jointly with Lionello Punzo, were published as The Dynamics Of A Capitalist Economy in 1987. They com-plement the ideas in his vol-umes of collected essays. Goodwin was born in Newcastle. Indiana and when he entered Harvard in 1930 was already politically aware. Ap-

palled by the Depression and the rise of fascism, he became

Communist Party (while at Oxford in 1934) and became a member of its American counterpart when he returned to Harvard. He regarded the Porty as the only effective bulwark against fascism. He left after the Hitler-Stalin pact but retained a humane commitment to planning a more equitable society than unfettered capitalism could provide. Understanding how economic systems work and what economic theory can (and cannot) contribute were his major passions. Goodwin loved his student

years (1930-34); he wrote a velopment, who became a close friend and mentor. A Rhodes Scholarship took him to St John's College. Oxford, to read PPE. There, he deepened his political awareness and studied early Hitlerian Germany to find out why a great nation could fall for a

ICHARD Goodwin, | a Marxist, joined the British | love affair with the country. Goodwin was one of the first to read John Maynard Keynes's General Theory. which Keynes had sent in proof form to Goodwin's tutor, Roy Harrod. Keynes's book had a major impact on Goodwin. though he thought it neglected the economic 1936 Trade Cycle and Jan Tinbergen's critical review Goodwin felt Harrod had the sounder view of capitalist dy-namics. Mulling over the issues involved brought illumination when teaching physics at Harvard.

Goodwin wrote a thesis on thesis on Marx and met the control of the money sup-Joseph Schumpeter, the Ausphy in the UK, 1919-1937. This trian theorist of capitalist de put him off money for life and reinforced his conviction that the real behaviour of the economy, without any help from banks, would be wave-like. Goodwin returned to Harvard for his PhD and joined the faculty. When ap-pointed he asked whether he could do half the work for half toonster. He also spent time the pay to leave time for in Italy, beginning a lifelong thinking, painting and poli-

In the area, David was a key figure in bringing church and

ing the church to the commu-

nity on the local housing es-tates. St Clement's door was

always open — at one point nobody had a key and it could

not be locked. In a neighbour-

hood of high crime, it was rarely vandalised because the

granted and earned Goodwin a false reputation for "not Goodwin developed an analysis of the productive relationships represented by

input-output, and of the way technical progress, as used by innovating entrepreneurs. crucially alters underlying structures. At the first inputoutput conference he met Richard Stone, who suggested he should come to this country. Emergent McCarthy ism made Goodwin suspect he would not get tenure at Har-vard and a Fulbright Fellowship in 1951 took him to Cam bridge, where he was appointed to a lectureship. Goodwin liked Cambridge because he could lecture on

whatever he wished. For some years he gave the second-year Principles lec-tures, the origin of his Ele-mentary Economics From The · Standpoint (1970). He also demonstrated the National Income Machine to undergraduates, graphically showing the nature of the cy-Goodwin took part in the 1950s and 1960s discussions of growth theory. His argument
— that capitalist economic development was not the outcome of one set of factors which determined a trend and another set determining

printed the Litany of Our | Resources for People With | priest, where my ministry has Lady of the Freedom Fighters. | Aids), based in Lancaster | been built upon the ongoing

Road, only a stone's throw from the Carnival route.

Across the road is the London

Lighthouse, which he helped create and where he died. He

was the founder of the Inter

work (ICAN), and spent much of his last years running train-

ing courses and lecturing.
David was warm, passion

ate, outrageous, infuriating, at times indiscreet and irrespon-

sible. He could be prone

die for he called to mind those Renaissance painters who planned broad canvasses, set

Jacqueline.

married in 1937.

**Geoffrey Harcourt** 

building up of relation-ships... I have found it espe-

cially hard adjusting to the

ministry on the Aids unit . . . I

have always been a great

fixer, as social activist seeking

to change the world and ...

offering a sacramental merry

go-round of exciting worship

and spiritual comfort. Only now am I slowly, falteringly

and fearfully facing the challenge of staying where the suffering really is, of not

knowing the answers, being honest about this, allowing others to set the agenda for ministry, and even admitting

that I receive from them as

That captures something of his complex life, symbolised

both by the brief crowded hap-piness of Carnival and the

David Randall, pnest, born Janu-

much as I can ever give."

long loneliness of Aids.

#### Goodwin, economist, born February 24, 1913; died August 6, guage and literature, 92.

details for their pupils to develop. He is survived by

**Death Notices** 

OKLEY, Met. 12.11.29 Memorial Service, Mordake Tuesday 20th August, 3:00m owner 3 garden only please, 1

#### in Memoriam

#### **David Randall**

#### The Carnival's father

PANY standards other than physical size, Father David Randall, group from Maiden, he moved who has died aged 49, was a larger-than-life character. He once described himself as the of England, he was also one of the most flamboyant, enterpastoral priests of his

Born in Ashtead, Surrey. David fell in love with the East End as a student. There was influenced greatly by Fathers John Groser and Joe the old shim district around Cable Street He modelled houself on them with his dramatic style of preaching, and singleness of vision. After a furbulent first curacy at All out his hand and said loudly.

to be youth chaplain at St Botolph's, Aldgate in the mid-1970s. He created a remarkmuch of his time in clubs and sleazy bars. The then Bishop of London. Gerald Ellison insisted on coming in plain clothes to see the work, de spite David's attempts to persuade him to dress as a hishor ins East Enders would expect Dr Ellison arrived in an pensive suit with Oxford col-lege tie and said. "David, my boy, you mustn't say I am the bishop. Say I am your friend Gerald." So in one gay bar in Whitechapel, David intro-duced his friend, Ellison held

"How do you do?" At St Bo-tolph's, David also helped to reate the Kipper Project with homeless young people. the Jubilee Group, a network of socialist Christians. Like many politically radical Chris-tians, he had a very tradi-

tional theology with a strong emphasis on the daily office, prayer and eucharistic adora-tion. His socialism was the basis of his pastoral work. David was one of the first priests to go public about his homosexuality, and later about having Aids, both on television and in print. In 1978, he went to Notting Dale as Vicar of St Clement's. where he led the most inspir-ing worship of any church in west London. Its annual high-



Randall . . . great heart

shrine for racial justice fo-cused on a statue of Our Lady of Parima, beneath which was

lights were Holy Week and Easter, the Notting Hill Carnival Mass with steel band and fantastic costumes, and the November. The liturgy at St Clement's combined Anglo-Catholic splendour with a warmth and a crazy informality rarely seen in Anglican-ism. David had an intense devotion to the Virgin Mary, and it was probably the only church in the world to have a

community saw it as their home. Next door was a lively multi-racial primary school, and David built up a powerful working partnership with the head, Judith Roberts, now a priest herself. He was in-volved with its families and

some of these links continued until his death. In the mid-1980s he nursed a parishioner with Aids, and in extravagant parties for any 1988 felt that ministry to and no reason. But he had a people with HIV and Aids should be his future direction. He went to work on the Aids ward at San Francisco Gen-eral Hospital. On return he founded CARA (Care and

sing. The could also be sensitive and loving, practical in a crisis, disciplined and God-centred. He did much good and some harm to people in his care. All his public actions were done with high very compassionate priestly heart.

The experience with Aids led to a sadder, more reflective

man. In 1988, he wrote: "After 17 years as a London parish ary 24, 1947; died August 13, 1996

#### Winning words

3A: IN ORDER for the admissions staff of our college to get to know you, the applicant, better, we ask you that you answer the following question: are there any significant experiences you have had, or accomplishments you have realised, that have helped to define you as a person? I am a dynamic figure, often seen scaling walls and crush-

Plastic people . . Cosmo

ing ice. I have been known to remodel train stations on my unch breaks, making them more efficient in the area of heat retention. I translate ethnic slurs for Cuban refugees. I write award-winning operus. I manage time efficiently. Occasionally, I tread water for three days in a row. I woo women with my sensuous and godlike trombone playing. I can pilot bicycles up severe inclines with unflagging speed, and I cook Thirty Min-

ute Brownies in twenty minutes. I am an expert in stucco, a veteran in love, and an out-law in Peru. Using only a hoe and a large glass of water, I once single handedly de-fended a small village in the Amazon Basin from a horde of ferocious army auts. When I'm bored, I build large suspension bridges in my yard. I enjoy

urban hang gliding. On Wednesdays, after school, I repair electrical appliances free of charge, i am an abstract artist, a concrete analyst, and a ruthless bookie. Critics worldwide swoon over my original line of corduroy eve. ning wear. I once read Para-dise Lost, Moby Dick, and

David Copperfield in one day and still had time to refurbish an entire dining-room that evening. I sleep once a week: when I do sleep. I sleep in a chair. While on vacation in Canada, I successfully negotiated with a group of terrorists who had seized a small bakery. On weekends, I participute in full-contact origami. Years ago I discovered the meaning of life but forgot to write it down. I breed prizewinning clams. I have played Hamlet, I have performed open-heart surgery, and I have spoken with Elvis. But I have not yet gone to college. Extracts from an essay written by a college applicant. The author, Hugh Gallagher, now auends Sowh Pacific University. A copy is online at www.cs.cornell.edu/info/ people/ckline/humour/mai-list.html

. 1

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**Emily Sheffield** 

## Jackdaw



#### Flipped out

FLIP-FLOPS are being washed up in vast numbers on the shores of a remote group of islands in the Indian Ocean, 1,500 kilometres southwest of Jakarta. The Cocos and Reeling Islands. which are bearing the brunt of the invasion, belong to Australia, Wendy Murray, a Park ranger with the Austra-lian Nature Conservation Agency, says that hundreds of thousands of Alp-flops, or thongs as they are called in Australia, litter the beaches of the 26 islands in the group. Julian McCauran, an Austrahan MP, visited the islands. You feel quite insulted to go

viroment and be confronted with thousands of smelly old thongs decaying in the sun. The beaches are the home of the green sea turtle and the blue rubber thong. One of them has to go." Murray blames Indonesian flip-flop manufacturers, who, he says ditch their rejects into the Battle of the thong reported in

to such a pristine, remote en-

Flying fear **CONTINENTAL Airlines has** reached a settlement with Timothy and Stacey Taylor of Houston, who said their five year old daughter was terror-used by a six-foot-long python that got out of a bag on a 1994 flight to New York. "I closed my eyes for two minutes. the curl's mother said. "I woke up to see a large snake with his head approximately half-an-inch from my daughter's leg." The girl, Alexandra, has nightmares about the snake. The woman who brought at aboard said her therapist suggested she carry

the snake around to help her

deal with the trauma of having been sexually harassed by a professor, according to Frightening treatment reported in the Herald

#### **Badger boozing** DRUNKEN summer revel-

lers are causing problems in North Yorkshire. The offenders are not youths who have downed one lager too many, but badgers which have overindulged in forbidden fruit. In hot, dry weather, the badgers have difficulty getting earthworms — their main food — out of the hard ground, so they look for other ood sources. Fermenting fruit on the ground in or-

chards is a great temptation. The RSPCA had to rescue one from a swimming pool where it had, presumably, decided to have a cooling dip. The tipsy brock had not noticed that the pool was empty and suffered cuts and bruises. At Burythorpe, near Malton, police were called to investigate a suspected break-in. They instead dis-

covered that the intruder was not a burgler, but black, white, furry and rather con fused. An RSPCA spokesman said: "They like the fruit but they don't know when to Badgers going bruising in

#### Country Life Holy breasts

"WE CAN make better breasts than God." declares Dr Maja Ruetschi, an elegant. Swiss-born surgeon. "Women grow up with a Barbie doll - her ong legs, tiny waist and huge breasts — it's no wonder they want to look like that." Having plastic surgery is like doing a little decorating on your house: every little improvement makes the rest look bad.

"Plastic surgery sharpens your eyesight," says Dr Scheibner, "You get some-thing done, suddenly you're looking in the mirror at imperfections that no one else can see.". For some people. enough is never enough. "I've seen it in my own mother. admits Dr Novack, "She's 75. swims everyday, and doesn't ever want to look behage. I've.

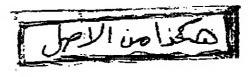
and a little on her abdomer She's on her third face lift." A 50-something socialite, came for her first follow-up consulta tion after her "scarless", endoscopic face-lift. She was abso-lutely delighted until she saw a magazine picture of a friend of mine who happens to be one of the world's top models. "How come my jawline doesn't look as good as hers?"

done liposuction on her back,

her inner thighs, her triceps

she seriously wanted to know. The newest implant making the rounds is the jaw-widener, popular with actresses and models. "We make a flap inside the mouth and insert a tiny piece of silicone into the part of the jaw that angles towards the ear," says Dr. Novack, "so it gives that Northern European . . . look they're all asking for." And the latest beauty booster is an injection of Botox, the toxin that causes botulism, which gets rid of those pesky forehead furrows by simply paralysing the facial

No doubt someone soon will be suing Barble for the cost of their plastic surgery. Reported in Cosmopolitan.



Small monthly increase in retail price index restrained by price-conscious high street consumers

# House prices lift inflation

Richard Thomas

nudged the infla-tion rate up last month despite sharp discounting

esterday. Dispelling City fears of a summer surge in prices, the Office for National Statistics said the retail price index rose by 2.2 per cent over the year to July, only slightly up from 2.1 per cent the preced-ing month. ONS staff said heftier property values had added at least 0.1 percentage points to the rate.

yearly rate of inflation — lysts as benchmarks of high sury minister, said: "This which strips out housing street behaviour, cut price week's retail and producer tags even more aggressively price figures show that the per cent, restrained by this year than last July, conwhich strips out housing costs — remained static at 2.8 bumper summer sales in shops competing to draw in.

David Coleman, UK econo-mist at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce, said the figures had been welcomed by dealers. "After inflation worries after stronger unemploy-ment data on Wednesday, these figures should bring fi-nancial markets back to reality," he said.
"Consumers may be spend

ing more money, but they appear to be just as sensitive to retailers' pricing. The Chancellor will be delighted." Clothing and footwear stores and household goods founding expectations of a more subdued sales season.

Prices on clothes and shoes dropped by 4.9 per cent in the month, taking the annual change to minus 1.4 per cent
— the lowest rate recorded
since 1963. Household goods values dipped by 1.5 per cent between June and July. A good domestic harvest and intense competition between supermarkets also helped to drive down food prices, the ONS said. Treasury officials said the

inflation figures reflected bet-ter-than expected factory gate prices, which were released on Monday.

economy is on course to hit

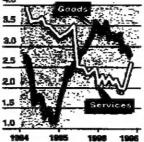
A Treasury spokesman said property values had distorted the headline inflation numbers. Lower mortage pay-ments — after the cuts recently aunounced by the two biggest building societies, the Halifax and Nationwide — would push the rate down again this month. The only blot on the figures

tor, in contrast to the tight lid on price tags for goods.

Adam Cole, at James Capel, sald: "This is a clear warning that low producer-price infla-

was a rise in inflationary

Goods v services



guarantee low retail-price inflation." Most City commentators,

would further tempt the

mist at brokers HSBC James Capel, said: The Chancel-lor's trigger finger will be

But the Liberal Democrats said the "disappointing" fig-ures showed Mr Clarke con-

Treasury spokesman Malthe Chancellor is serious about pursuing his inflation target rather than his re-election target, then he will have to pay more attention to the advice of the Bank of

for that purpose. In the North-west, its Run-

**New BP plant** 

aims to cut

power bills

corn site will be supplied from a 700MW station being built now by the US group, Intergen. Surplus electricity will be sold into the pool.

yesterday when BP an-nounced that it was in talks BP said yesterday that its power station plans "did not represent disaffection with with a US energy company over plans to build a £320 million power station near Hull BP and its US partner, Enneed to be competitive in bulk tergy, hope to build the com-bined heat-and-power station next to BP Chemicals' Saltend savings offered by building a plant after public consultadedicated power station.

Although terms have to be

tion and environmental agreed, investment for the generating station will come The move is the first of its type for BP but follows simi-lar steps by ICI, which has warned repeatedly that power from Entergy. BP will supply the station with gas from its North Sea fields. It will take 100MW for its chemicals operprices have risen so much since electricity companies were privatised six years ago ation, the suplus being sold into the pool.

that its chemicals operations could be threatened. ICI says power prices through the electricity pool can be 60 per cent higher than pre-privatisation prices when ICI and other industrial users bought CEGB power in bulk

ICI remains unhappy about pool prices. In the North-east it has an arrangement with the US company, Enron, to take power from Teesside Power, a 1.725MW station contracts.

million cubic feet of gas a day — about 12 per cent of BP's output. Denying that the deal was linked to negotiations with British Gas over longterm take-or-pay contracts for North Sea gas, BP brushed aside suggestions that this increase in demand for case could allow it to accept BG agreeing less favourable terms on the take-or-pay

News in brief

#### BT buys in £400m debt from Treasury

BRITISH Telecom has agreed to buy in nearly £400 million of debt held by the British Treasury. The debt, which dates back 11 years to the time of privatisation, is in two tranches: series 2001, worth £178.89 million, and series 2004, worth £219.48 million, and the purchase will take place on August 29. BT said the deal would have commercial advantages, and it would charge a premium on the repurchases, valued at about £60 million, to its profit and loss account in the quarter ending 30 September 1996. A Treasury spokesman said: "We are very pleased with the deal." He added that the sell-off was part of a programme of debt sales. - Tony May

#### ABN turns big euro spender

ABN Amro, the Dutch financial group, disclosed yesterday that it was braced to spend as much as 260 million in preparation for the Netherlands' conversion to the proposed single European currency. Jan Kalif, chairman, said some countries would begin to adopt the euro in four years' time. He spoke as the busine

#### Chip slump hits Samsung

FALLING global chip prices more than halved the first-half net profit of Samsung Electronics, the flagship company of South Korea's Samsung Group. Samsung Electronics unveiled a net profit of 458.4 billion won (£357 million) in the first six months, down 60 per cent from 1.13 trillion won a year earlier. — Remor

#### CS Holding insider probe

ZURICH'S prosecutor for economic crime said yesterday that he was investigating suspected insider trading in shares of CS Holding before the banking group amounced restructuring plans





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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS



Guild of gentlemen . . . London Gold Fixing at the offices of NM Rothschild & Sons

# Goldfinger's bullion heirs are guilt-free

DAN ATKINSON concludes the series on London's financial markets with a discreet alimpse at the world of gold dealers

Bond handed over the Top Secret folder. M put it to one side. "Something's come up. Odd business... Had dinner with the Governor of the Bank last night . . . Gold — the seamy counterfeiting, all that... Goldfinger. Odd chop...He's the chap the Bank of England's after ... As from this moment.

HAT moment, cap-tured on screen with a full-throated Shirley Bassey and a laser beam pointed at Sean Connery's groin, may be 37 years in the past, but Ian Fleming's fictional stemp remains al-most as firmly upon the outsider's view of gold dealing as it does on impressions of casino gambling and diamond

smuggling.
Thus the Bank watches over a bullion market that is secretive, speculative and prone to abuse by wrong uns of Goldfinger's kind. True or false? Well, one thing is certain: since Bond sat in M's office on that long-ago morning in 1959, there may have been many dull moments

but none has lasted for long.
There was the turmoil of 1968, as President Johnson's

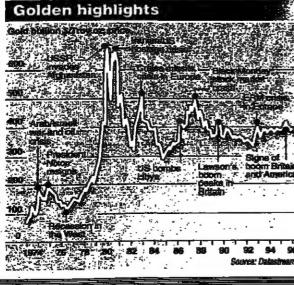
in the London gold market,

home to roost. There was January 1980; the Soviet 1971, when President Nixon Union had invaded Afghani-took America off the gold stan, the Europeans were instandard. Then came the inflationary tidal-wave and threatened social breakdown of the mid-1970s, during which time the smartest in-vestor was the chap with a stockpile of baked beans, a submachine gun and a bag full of Krugerrands.

stalling "theatre" Cruise mis-

was grappling with the Iran-ian hostage crisks.

The price has eased off since those crazy days, but London — the world's most important bullion market has had problems closer to home. There was the Brinks-Gold prices soured and soared, hitting their peak in | Matt robbery of autumn 1993,



the collapse of Johnson and the host of the twice-allowing year (admittedly unlim a world of second-by-lowing year) and the host of the twice-allowing operators trade gold and silver in London; they range from specialist bullion banks lowing year (admittedly un-connected with its bullion activities) and the panic of November 1995, when gold-borrowing rates shot up and, for the first time in recent history, the immediate "spot"

siles and President Carter price overtook that of onemonth "forward" contracts.

At the still centre of these hurricane-force storms is the London bullion market, a dealing operation conducted over the sort of secure tele-phone circuits beloved of lan Fleming and shrouded in the sort of discretion beloved of conspiracy theorists everywhere. And at the still centre of the still centre are the five

rooms. A little flag stands on the table in front of each per-son; only when every flag is lying down are supply and de-mand in balance. gold-fixing banks: Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, Midland Montagu, Republic National Bank of New York, Mocatta

The "fix" — which dates back to September 12 1919 — is flashed around the world and is used as the benchmark price on contracts from Chi cago to Sydney. Silver is fixed just once a day, but the fixing boasts a 22-year start on gold, having begun in 1897.

Aside from the Big Five, 48 Sorry, Bond, ultra-hush.

second "real time" price changes and hyper-charged

floor traders, the morning and afternoon gold fixings look like something out of a world

long gone. Representatives of the five fixing banks sit in a

panelled room, hooked up by telephone to their dealing

#### American dentists help plug sales gap

WORLD gold demand slid nearly 3 per cent during the second quarter of this year against the same time in 1995 as record sales in poorer countries were more than off-set by weaker demand in Europe and Japan, writes Dan

Britain defied the Conti-nent and moved in the same an increase of 1 per cent on demand a year earlier.

fillings. But Japanese demand dropped 46 per cent on the previous year, reflecting con-tinuing caution among jewel-lers and consumers in the wake of the early 1990s finan-cial crash.

emand a year earlier. | developing world and 180 all arees where demand America itself showed a 7 tonnes in the industrialised hard or impossible to track.

per cent increase, boosted by countries. A year ago, de-gold jewellery sales and a 6.5 mand totalled 663 tonnes, per cent rise in sales of gold with 443 sold in developing

to giants like Merrill Lynch and Swiss Bank Corporation.

New York and Tokyo offer gold futures, but that sort of thing has not taken off in Lon-

don, which prides itself on being the centre for serious

players interested in actually trading gold rather than spec-

ulating in pieces of paper.

Central banks, many of whom still keep their

reserves with the Bank of England, are among London's

best customers, valuing its confidentiality, its liquidity and — give or take the odd

"blag" — its security.
As to the value of bullion traded through the City, confi-

The figures were published yesterday by the World Gold Council. It warned that the data excludes about a quarter of global demand, which arises in countries in Africa and parts of Latin America, Overall, demand stood at the Middle East and the for the Middle East and the former Communist countries -the Middle East and the for-

## Coca-Cola shows plenty of bottle as its share price hits all-time high

**Coca-Cola used the Olympic Games** to further its global domination and Mark Tran says it is well in the lead

dreamed up the mar-keting ploy of venturing into the wilds of Peru to find an innocent to whom he could introduce Coke. He trekked 150 miles, met an Indian woman in the jungle and explained his mission through an interpreter. The woman reached who is specially why the stock leaves to the product of the milestone this week when its shares topped \$50. Its rapid expansion in the Third World has been largely why the stock leaves

N enterprising Coca- world's most famous brand Cola publicist once name. The company says name. The company says the trademark is recognised by 94 per cent of the world's population.

mind the conglomerate General Electric. It derives 80 per cent of its operating profits from outside the US.

The chairman Policies Coca-Cola fits Mr Buffett's investment philosophy perfectly. It is a simple business that has pricing power and — with its business. Golzueta, boasts in the lat-est annual report that in It also requires little capi-Goizueta, boasts in the lat-

the UK, consumption of tal, because its business is Coke surpasses the com-bined consumption of the two leading teas. He pre-dicts that in France this year, consumption of Cocalost its way by diversifying Cola will surpass that of into water purification, the leading bottled water.

\$126 billion (£81 billion). In recent months it has over-taken Exxon oil and the stake soured above miserable 1 per cent. In \$126 billion (£81 billion). In Coke's ascent. This week miserable 1 per cent. In \$1982, Coke caught Holly-wood faver and bought Corecent months it has over-taken Exxon oil and the stake soured above AT&T phone company and \$10 billion.

> not shipping and selling cans of Coke, but supplying concentrate and syrup. In the late 1970s, Coke lost its way by diversifying

mission through an intermission through an interpreter. The woman reached into a sack and pulled out a bottle of Coke. It was 1956.

Since then, Coke has soaked even deeper into soaked even deeper into consciousness as the with a market value of consciousness as the since through an interThird World has been year, consumption of CocaCola will surpass that of the leading bottled water.
Water purification, wine plastics, fruit and vegetables and even shrimp farming. The average many miles indeed to find an innocent who had not tasted the real thing.

lumbia Pictures. In 1985, it committed the blunder of changing its formula.

pressed by the subsequent clamour that forced the company to revert to old fizzy drink had "something more than just the taste" it also carried memories of childhood. The performance gains have come in the face of a

\$500 million campaign by its arch-rival, PepsiCo. A publicist these days not well-established here and would have to walk very many miles indeed to find that have a formidable, arche-

#### Branson 'way, way behind'

PICHARD Branson's Virgin Group yesterday said it would begin test marketing its cola in 200 stores in the Philadelphia area, aiming to supplant Pepsi as the No 2 cola brand in the US.

But Virgin's share of the market for cola in British supermarkets was just 3 per cent last December. "In Brithero," said Tom Pirko, a New York consultant, "But he's typal meaning in our lives. He's way, way behind."

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer Telephone: 0171-239-9610 Fax: 0171-833-4456

# Finance Guardian

High Court supports £3.2bn insurance package

# Lloyd's rescue plan survives late Names challenge

Lisa Buckingham

TRICKEN Lloyd's of London yesterday saw off the final UK £3.2 billion rescue package critical to the 300-year-old insurance market's survival. A High Court judge rejected an attempt by some Lloyd's investors to question the le-gality of the scheme designed

to allow the market to ring-fence £8 billion of pre-1992 losses as well as any deterioration on those years of

The Paying Names Action Group, which alleges its 1,300 members suffered losses of nearly 2500 million, claimed the rescue plan disadvan-taged those who had paid their debts and favoured investors who had refused to pay or had taken legal action. The outcome of the High

Court hearing coincided with the decision by a US federal judge to order the Securities decide by today whether the reorganisation package breached US disclosure laws. About 100 of Lloyd's 3,000 tors are suing the

Lloyd's yesterday declined to comment on the US developments, although a better deal is on offer to some Amer-ican Names than is available in the UK. But chairman David Rowland welcomed the decision by Lord Justice review to the PNAG.

times that the offer is in its final form and members must

Lloyd's has sent details of the settlement proposals to its 34,000 investors who have until the end of the month to accept or refuse. They will then have about 30 days to settle outstanding debts. The insurance market had

argued during the hearing that any further delay could jeopardise its rescue plan. A court decision against the £3.2 billion proposals could have had "devastating and chaotic

consequences".

The judge, who will explain his ruling today, hoped yesterday's decision would remove market uncertainty. He said the case did not raise matters of public law because

paying losses and to secure a Lloyd's relationship with its better deal under the recon- Names was one of private contract. But even if the court did have jurisdiction, the PNAC had delayed too long in bringing the case to court.
The judge added that
Lloyd's had acted within its

> or irrationally" as the paying Names had claimed. The PNAG is delaying com-ment until full judgment is

> The paying Names claimed that re-insurance premiums for Equitas — the vehicle which will run off old losses - amounted to cross-subsi dies which breached Lloyd's principle that investors were responsible for their own losses. The group also con-tended that the settlement ran contrary to unlimited liabil-ity at Lloyd's.

Most tellingly, however, the paying Names claimed they had been discriminated against. Names who had refused to pay losses had been given priority, it was alleged. Richard Gordon, counsel for the litigating Names, said that PNAG members had done all they could to pay their debts to Lloyd's but they had been left worse off than

investors kept waiting for split-up plans . . .

#### Hanson sees its final profits lifted by sales

Lisa Buckingham

ANSON, the conglomerate which came to symbolise the ruthless deal-making of the 1980s, yes results as a single company before dismembering itself into four business units.

The group, which left inves-tors waiting for at least another week before revealing the final terms on which chemicals and tobacco will be spun off, reported profits of £1.48 billion for the nine months to June - up from £850 million.

But £608 million of those profits came from the sale of operations such as Cavenham and the Seven Seas health products. And although the group's energy company Eastern posted operating profits of £345 million — up from £111 million — Hanson was forced to admit that its che cals business is still mired by

tobacco profits, overall results fell short of analysts' expectations and shares nudged another 2p lower to 166%p — nearly a fifth below their level when the four-way demerger was announced in January, ending 32 years as a single entity.
The company decided to

write off £39 million from some of its chemical assets in order to focus on chloride production.

promised at SCM Chemicals for September and the company said its recent attempts to ratchet up the price of Quantum's polyethylene were being made to stick.

A one-cent-a-pound in-crease at SCM can add \$10 million a year to profits, while every cent at Quantum is worth up to \$40 million. Hanson, which has already spun off US Industries — a

miserable trading conditions collection of consumer prod-in the United States. collection of consumer prod-ucts operations — said it was ditions for its UK building

> the documents to support a demerger of its chemicals and cigarette company, Imperial Tobacco, with brands such as Superkings and John Player,

start to trade on October 1 and the cost of the demerge will probably near £100 mil-

The energy division, which now includes five power stations acquired from National Power and Power-Gen, will be hived off early next year even though yester day's results showed that Per body Coal, America's largest coal-mining group, is suffer-ing reduced profits because of lower-priced Midwest con-

husiness, although margins were being sustained. The group plans to publish

If all goes to plan, shares in both these companies should

after 19 years with the Being hung out to dry is all zoned on shops throughcompany. Mr Zerny, who became

in a week's work for Terry Greer (right) and Richard Zerny, chairman and chief executive (UK) of Johnson Group cleaners — Britain and America's biggest

drycleaners. Yesterday, the pair an-nounced that the firm's name was set to be embla-

out the country. More than 500 of their 643 British shops will be trading under the Johnson brand by the end of 1998. Mr Greer will not be at

the helm to witness the event. He said yesterday he will be retiring next May at the annual meeting

secure the confidence of all those who use the market". It

plans to publish its findings before the end of the year. But, in an interview with the Guardian, Mr King in-

sisted that the integrity of his

He warned that, whatever steps were taken to reform

trading, more than 95 per cent

from overseas and "off-mar-

ket" trading not subject to

The LME was ready to

"hang any member high and hang them publicly" if they were found to have breached

of jurisdiction because "our

British regulatory control

of the market's busine

market was not in question.

British chief executive seven years ago, will take the reins as overall group chief executive. 28.5 per cent pre-tax prof-its rise to £9.2 million. PHOTOGRAPH: DAVID SALITOR

#### Trying to silence smoke alarms



Edited by Mark Milner

sion from hell: drum up investor interest in a pure cigarette company just days after the tobacco industry sufered one of its worst set-

But there is more to come. This cigarette company is particularly keen to win US shareholder support. Yet, un-like other leaders, such as BAT which could potentially offset legal hits to its cigarette business by deploying finan-cial services profits, or RJR Nabisco which could use food earnings in a similar way, this cigarette company has nothing but income from its little white sticks to rely on.

If Hanson is to be believed
— and it is that conglomerare's Imperial Tobacco subsidiary that will be demerged in October — it still has a winning trick up its sleeve Imps has scarcely sold a ciga-rette in the American market. It has stood aside as the US husiness was ravaged by the anti-smoking lobby and can now smile confidently as its rivals are hauled through the US courts towards what could be costly financial settle-

Hanson is confident that smoking damages cases stand a negligible chance of success in the UK. And Imps business is growing in countries such France and Spain where, for the time being at least, anti-smoking remains outside the lexicon of the politically spin-off terms for Imperial and the group's chemicals business renamed Millenniunm — should emerge at the end of next week with the demerger documents.

#### Clarke's clock

ESTERDAY'S inflation figures will make only a modest contribution towards the debate over whether UK interest rates will go up or down. The ques-tion is simply one of timing. At some stage interest rates will have to rise; the issue is whether the Chancellor can keep rates on hold or even squeeze out a modest reduc-tion, before the next election. The figures offer some am-munition to those on either

side of the debate. Seasonal foods fell sharply, so did clothing and footwear prices, while household products reg-istered a modest fall. Shop-

istered a modest fall. Shoppers are still keen on hargains, making it tough for stores to push up prices.

That no doubt pleases the Chancellor, Kenneth Clarke, who will see the figures as confirming the picture of weak inflationary pressures illustrated by the producer price index data released earlier this week.

lier this week. The Bank of England is unlikely to be comforted. Housing costs — always a sensitive area for the inflation-con-scious Old Lady — increased, the willingness of consumers to spand, even at "sale prices, and the projected increase in economic growth are likely to increase the threat of inflation.

The Bank's worry is that, while price pressures may appear weak at present, any pick-up in inflation will only materialise in the data after the time for action has pa - hence its recent call for a pre-emptive strike.

The Bank is, of course, working on a time horizon of a couple of years. The Chan-cellor's horizons are more likely to be defined by the timing of the election.

#### Desperate resort

ATE holiday booking has become almost a summer tradition. Come August and we trot along to the travel agents looking for breaks the holiday companies are pre-pared to discount in an effort to cover at least a part of their costs for pre-booked airline eats and hotel rooms.

Everyone knows the snags. You might not get the destination you want, the dates may be a bit difficult, the hotel might not be the one you would have chosen from the full range in the brochure. Never mind, the upside was sitting in the sun, somewhere, counting the savings on the brochure price.

It remains to be seen how many people will be prepared to pay the extra. At a guess. not that many. Indeed, it would be interesting to know how many holidays Airtours has left on its books. The company refuses to say on the grounds of commercial sensitivity. At at guess, however, probably not that many.

That, however, is probably

not the point. Airtours is more likely aiming to per-suade more people to book suade more people to book earlier than to cash in on this year's late bookers.

Is this the end of cheap holi-days? Very unlikely. Yester-day's move by Airtours does not look like a fundamental change in the market for package holidays.

#### Decks are cleared for demerger . . .

#### Thorn EMI chief nets £3.3m

Lies Buckingham

R Colin Southgate. hairman of Thorn EMI, yesterday reaped a windfall £3.3 million in share option profits as he cleared vote by shareholders which is expected to give a green light to demerging the group. The company said Sir Colin

had excercised more than 141,000 share options which he immediately sold in the market for £17.75 each. Sir Colin exercised another

170,000 options but held on to

of \$2.03 million.

The option profits come on top of Sir Colin's salary and

bonus, which totalled £755,000 in the latest financial year. The company said most of the options excercised by Sir Colin had been held for seven to 10 years. The Thorn EMI chairman has been an out-spoken advocate of the need for executives to hold options and shares over the long term in order to align better remuneration with corporate performance.

Sir Colin will continue as chairman of the EMI music the shares, which at yester-day's closing price of £17.89 stars include Tina Turner.

vere showing a paper surplus | Blur and George Michael, and whose operations include the HMV retail chain and Dillons book shops. He will stay as chairman of Thorn, the Radio Rentals and Rent-A-Center or eration, until its annual meet ing in spring 1997, when he will be replaced by Hugh Jones, a non-executive director and former executive at the Prudential investment

> Thorn also appounced that finance director Simon Duffy excercised 154,750 options Like Sir Colin, Mr Duffy's trade represented almost his entire holding allocation of share options. He netted paper profit of £1.6 million.

. . . while other conglomerates struggle on

#### City punishes diversified firms

**Pauline Springett** 

ESTERDAY'S reminders of the immi-nent demergers of both Hanson Thorn EMI have focused attention once more on the future for the UK's remaining conglomerates — an unfashionable and dying breed in City eyes.

TOURIST RATES -- BANK SELLS

Australia 1.9225 France 7 62
Austria 15.72 Germany 2.2375
Belgium 48.01 Greece 360 50

saw its shares slip 5.5 pence to 258 pence after broker ABN Amro Hoare Govett cut foreand 1997 profits and dividend forecasts for the group. ABN cut its 1996 pre-tax to forecast to £1.3 billion from its previous estimate of £1.385

Meanwhile, industrial ma-

BTR became the latest vic-tim of the City's attitude yes-terday. The industrial group 21.5 billion. The company has timate to £1.41 billion from £1.5 billion. The company has had an uneasy relationship with the City. A profits warning in May sent the shares tumbling. The efforts of chief executive Ian Strachan to refocus strategy have met with general approval but he has been hampered by tough market conditions.

> terials group Cookson looks to have fallen even more out know if it has been booted out of the prestigious FT-SE 100

Patrick Donovan City Editor

King admitted yesterday that the vast majority of City commodity trading lay beyoud his control, as the Secu-rities and Investment Board suggested that widespread reforms might be needed to prop up confidence in the world's biggest metals trading market, after the Sumitomo copper scandal, More than 3,500 market par

Office and the City of London police announced in June that they were investigating any British involvement after the Japanese trading group Sumitomo announced that it

The regulator added that it by next Monday's listing of also needed to ensure the need for US-style "circuit breakers" to limit price volaof market integrity which tility.

#### Most metal deals Set by Quantum 'fall outside rules'

ONDON Metal Exchange chief executive David

ticipants are being asked to respond to hard-hitting SIB proposals which follow its rules. Mr King said the main problem remained the issue pledge to examine fully the running of the City metals The SIB, the Serious Fraud

had lost \$1.8 billion through copper trading and sacked its "rogue trader", Yasuo Ha-manaka

The SIB insisted yesterday that it was not making any firm proposals until it had sounded out interested parties. But it hinted that reforms might be needed, saysuring that the LME continof favour. Later today it will use to meet the needs of

control only extends to our members". The LME had no authority over Sumitomo's activities, he added Mr King said the measures put forward by the SIB had already been considered as part of an ongoing LME review. He added that the Sumitomo affair might never have come to light if it had

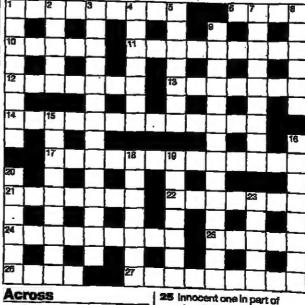
not been for the vigilance of the LME authorities, which

alerted the Japanese com-

pany to suspect trades as

early as 1991. Among the questions being asked by the SIB are: whether the market believes further safeguards against manipula tion are needed; wants further transparency in "over the counter deals", and sees a

Guardian Crossword No 20,733



church (5)

Down

for TV reception? (4)

learner on way up as a

3 What's the matter with the

play? There's no Individuality in it (4-10)

4 Dance about and somehow

5 Very large bird taking a short

7 Flat piece meant somehow

8 Able to mirnic one served

composer (5)

set record (3-4)

to go around (9)

with drinks? (6)

cut (7)

Across 1 Side put in to boast about

6 Skin emollient kept in hospital cupboard (4)

10 Hot drink required (The news comes back to us (5) 11 Show hospitality? To join in one must be in the money

12 Order paper at Army bank?

13 Express directly (3-4) 14 Secret trove I inspect, being contemplative (13)

17 Is large house thus acting as cover for two? (6-7) 21 Indicator of current trends

22 Ruin plan for fuel holder (7) 24 Orinoco's right to divert effect of chamical action (9) WAGOMILIT THEDES
H I I N S A I I OSTY
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SHEWHOLDT
D Y S S O P O
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CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,732 9 Piano one clique played showing pretentious

15 Signs of unfinished

16 Supporter is at this place in 18 Extraction of molar G.I.'s had is fairly big (7) 19 The fins possibly of use to

angler (7) 20 Managed the Yard and was corrupt (6) 23 Misquote character in book

26 Attractive person required 27 House drink includes wine, Solution temorrow rare one from S Africa (9)

27 Stuck? Then call our solutions line on 0891 338 238. Calls cost 39p per min. cheap rate, 49p per min at all other times. Service supplied by ATS 1 Pony is unruly on board? That's the general view (8) 2 Strong desire surrounding

